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School for wedded bliss

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More Emotion please

LIBBY PURVES Page 20

'Pack your bags and go'

Police chief fights call to resign

By Gillian Harris and Stewart Tendler

A CHIEF CONSTABLE last night rejected an unprecedented demand from the Scottish Secretary that he should "pack his bags and go" after the publication of a highly critical report into his force's handling of a child murder inquiry.

Donald Dewar called on Ian Oliver, Chief Constable of Grampian Police, to resign immediately or face being forcibly removed from his post.

But Dr Oliver, who contests the damning conclusions in the report into the death of nine-year-old Scott Simpson, insisted that he would not step down. He said that he wanted the "totally unjustified denigration" of his force to stop, and promised to respond to the report at a meeting of the Grampian police board in Aberdeen today.

The 102-page report into the murder inquiry highlights numerous examples of incompetence, neglect and unprofessionalism, and Mr Dewar said: "The buck stops at the top. I believe that in light of the report's disclosures Dr Oliver should pack his bags and go now. That would be in the best interests of the force. The public will expect no less."

Dr Oliver has already chosen to take early retirement after an unrelated controversy in February in which a newspaper published pictures of him in an apparent embrace with a young married woman. He repeatedly denied impropriety but announced he was taking early retirement and will leave the force later this year.

If he were to be forced out of his £82,000-a-year job before then, it would call into question the principle that a chief constable has total operational control.

Two other chief constables were dismissed in the 1950s after being convicted of corruption, and the head of the Derbyshire force quit in the 1980s during a row over the cost of refurbishing his office.

To remove Dr Oliver, Mr Dewar would have to appoint an independent assessor, such as a senior judge, to decide if there were evidence that the Chief Constable was inefficient. But the minister's powers are untested and Mr Dewar is thought to be reluctant to embark on the lengthy and complex legal process, which would extend beyond Dr Oliver's planned retirement.

Scott Simpson was killed on July 17 last year, hours after being abducted by the 34-year-old paedophile Steven Leisk. He was strangled with a grey woollen scarf and his body hidden beneath bushes in a narrow lane close to the park where he had been playing. It was found four days later.

According to the report compiled by Graham Power, assistant chief constable of Lothian and Borders Police, Leisk's presence in Aberdeen was known to police and he could have been identified as the "strange man" children had seen offering Scott a cigarette.

"A check of police computer records, available at the time, would have revealed that Steven Leisk, a dangerous convicted paedophile, who fitted the description and who had a recorded history of offering cigarettes to his victims, lived close to the park," the report says. His would have been the only name among the 750,000 stored on the computer to be highlighted.

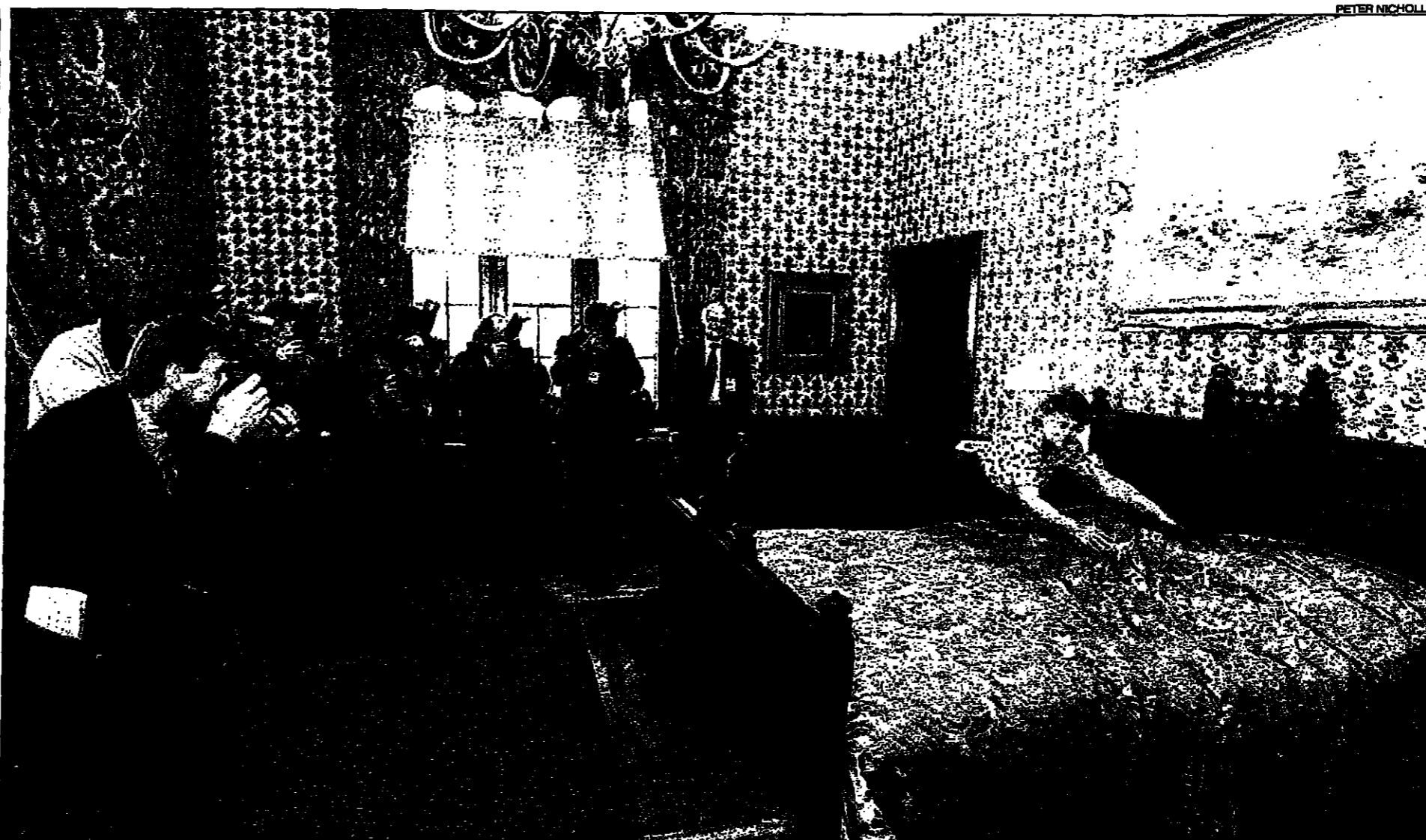
The report goes on to condemn officers for their lack of professionalism during the search for Scott. "A number of individual officers were responsible for acts of maladministration, neglect and incompetence, and Grampian police as an organisation failed to perform to recognised professional standards to an extent that amounts to serious corporate failure."

The report also criticises the police for failing to put an officer in charge of the murder inquiry and not following up witness reports which could have led them straight to Leisk.

"An energetic and determined speculative search on the computer would have identified Steven Leisk as an obvious suspect on the basis of information available in the first few hours of the enquiry. The failure to undertake such a search was a lost opportunity for an early arrest."

Taken collectively, Grampian Police had all the information they needed to solve the case.

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Norah Dobinson, the Lord Chancellor's Train Bearer, shows off the Master Bedroom. "Pompous extravagance" said one critic "and not designed to be lived in by a human being"

Lady of the Loo pulls plug on Derry's throne

By James Landale, Political Reporter

THE Lord Chancellor unveiled most of his refurbished residence to the world's media yesterday but, in uncharacteristic modesty, kept his new antique Victorian water closet firmly behind closed doors.

As reporters and photographers swarmed around the nine-roomed apartment in the House of Lords, Norah Dobinson, Lord Irvine of Lairg's formidable official Train Bearer, stood guard outside the lavatory.

Apart from the £57,000 floored wallpaper and £14,000 table, the oak-paneled porce-

lain commode — dubbed "Derry's Throne" — has added to the controversy surrounding the renovation.

Miss Dobinson, swiftly renamed "The Lady of the Loo" by visiting journalists, was loyally discreet and refused all requests for a quick peek. Said to have cost £3,000, the loo is situated in a dressing room off the master bedroom where Lord and Lady Irvine will sleep when they come to live in the apartments later this month.

Entrance was forbidden on the ground that Lord Irvine had already deposited some of his "personal effects" there, even though this added to the

curiosity. But Miss Dobinson was there to guard it.

The work has cost the taxpayer £590,000 and Lord Irvine of Lairg a lot more in political capital, but officials insisted the finished product showed it had all been worthwhile. But Stephen Bayley, the former creative director of the Millennium Dome who was on the tour, said the rooms were "rather depressing" and "not designed to be lived in by a human being."

He added: "I think it's extraordinary that the chief law officer in New Labour wants to take refuge in status symbols of Conservative nostalgia, and a particularly wit-

less interpretation of Conservative nostalgia. Pugin himself would have deplored the pompous extravagance of Irvine's restoration."

But Lord Irvine again insisted the work had been done to the highest standard with all-party support. He told ITN: "Whenever any important part of the Palace of Westminster is restored, it is restored to the highest standard and that is what I think the British public would expect for their Parliament."

Yesterday Lord Irvine and his wife were travelling down from their Scottish home and were not present for the grand opening.

Support for the changes came from Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen, an interior designer from the BBC's *Changing Rooms* programme. He said: "If Lord Irvine had got textured wallpaper from a DIY store and Artec for the ceiling, there would have been an even bigger outcry... so I'm more pro than against."

The Lord Chancellor faced much criticism over the refurbishment which was said to be an unnecessary extravagance with public money. In fact, the work came in £60,000 under its initial £650,000 budget.



Barred passage to Lord Irvine's £3,000 closet

Follow the flock, page 3

STANC



Arafat agrees to peace talks

Tony Blair is to host a conference in London next month which could pave the way for a settlement of the Middle East peace process.

Prime Minister and Yassir Arafat in Gaza City, the President of the Palestinian Authority endorsed the proposal. Israeli and Palestinian officials praised Mr Blair's coup.

Pages 13, 20, 21

Nanny accused over baby death

By Adam Fresco and Stephen Farrell

AN AUSTRALIAN nanny appeared in court yesterday accused of shaking a six-month-old baby girl and leaving her with severe brain injuries.

Police said that Louise Sullivan, 26, could be charged with murder or manslaughter if the baby, Caroline, dies on a life support system, dies.

Caroline's parents, Marcel Jongen, 41, a director of an offshore investment company and his French wife, Muriel, were at the bedside of their daughter last night at Great Ormond Street Hospital.

It is understood that Mr and Mrs Jongen left for work shortly before 7am on April 17, leaving Ms Sullivan, a live-in nanny, with the child.

Four and a half hours later an ambulance was called to their semi-detached home in Cricklewood, Northwest London, and Caroline was taken to the Royal Free Hospital before being transferred to Great Ormond Street. Ms

Sullivan, from Victoria, Australia, was charged at Clerkenwell Magistrates' Court with causing Caroline grievous bodily harm and was remanded in custody for a week.

Archbishop Huddleston dies at 84

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

ARCHBISHOP Trevor Huddleston, one of the leading campaigners against apartheid, died yesterday, at 84.

Dr Huddleston, knighted in the New Year honours for his contribution to ending the apartheid regime in South Africa, was former Archbishop of the province of the Indian Ocean.

He helped found the Anti-Apartheid Movement in 1959, and went on to be elected president of the organisation.

Although he spent the last years of his life teaching and preaching at the Community of the Resurrection in Mirfield, West Yorkshire, his heart remained in South Africa, even after the battle he fought was effectively won.

The Most Rev Desmond Tutu, retired Archbishop of Cape Town, said he was greatly saddened at his death.

Obituary, page 23

Secret cremation for Linda McCartney

By Daniel McGrovy

SIR Paul McCartney had his wife, Linda, cremated in a brief and secret ceremony just hours after her death in California, it emerged yesterday.

Only Sir Paul and their four children were present after they decided not to tell even close family and friends of the death until after the funeral.

Geoff Baker, Sir Paul's publicist and confidant, said last night that she was dying. Mr Baker said: "It is absolute nonsense to say Linda knew the end was near. She did not. It was a total and absolute shock to them all. She

and Paul and most of the family were in California for a holiday.

"She felt she needed a rest and some fun with them before embarking on what was to be a strenuous tour to promote her new cookbook. Two days before, she and Paul had been out riding. This is not the behaviour of a woman who was at death's door."

However, there are reports from America that Lady McCartney realised the cancer had spread to her liver and that she was in California seeking treatment at a clinic that specialises in alternative therapies. The reports say that after a recent medical examination Lady McCartney was told the cancer

had returned and she sought advice from doctors at an alternative medicine clinic in Santa Barbara.

She had been found to be suffering from breast cancer in December 1995, but had recently appeared in public with short hair after chemotherapy, saying she had beaten the disease.

She had been dead for more than 36 hours before her husband made the first calls to friends and family in Britain. Some of their children were already with them and Sir Paul made arrangements for at least one to fly to California to see Linda before she died surrounded by her family at her bedside.

Mr Baker insisted last night that "Linda had no idea things were so bad, nor did anyone else. I do not know the precise details of where the funeral took place but it was decided by Paul and the kids they just wanted to be alone."

He said it was too soon for Sir Paul to say what would happen to his wife's remains. "He is in such shock. Nobody realised how much she meant to him. She was his love, his absolute inspiration, his life."

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A symphony of gushing tributes played on plastic spoons

Asnattanned Andrew MacKay, Chief Opposition Spokesman on Northern Ireland, slipped furiously into the Chamber yesterday minutes before the Secretary of State was to deliver her statement. Mr MacKay, who looks and indeed talks like a male model for golfing leisurewear, has been criticised for spending the final stage of the Ulster peace process accompanying his MP wife on an Inter-Parliamentary Union visit to southern Africa.

His arrival, all but shaking the jacaranda blossom from his garment, brought stifled grunts among Labour MPs. The oiks have been gagged. Whips insist that amity and joy are the watchwords of this accord, and nobody is to be nasty about anybody, not even Tories. Ms Mowlam hit the amenity like an alcoholic his gin yesterday. The session became politics's answer to the BAFTA awards ceremony.

She was, she said "privileged" to tell us about this success. "Everyone can be a winner", she trilled. She wanted to "pay tribute"—to almost

everybody. She wanted to pay tribute to British civil servants, and Irish civil servants. She wanted to pay tribute to the leaders of all the parties; to George Mitchell, to Bertie Ahern. She wanted to pay "a particularly warm tribute" to her predecessors, Peter Brooke and Lord (Patrick) Mayhew, to the "successive Irish Prime Ministers and Ministers for Foreign Affairs, to MPs here at Westminster on both sides of the House who had been so supportive... Ms Mowlam was now on auto-tribute. There was a



severe risk that she might actually thank herself — or sob that this had been a team effort, thank her mother and father and all her teachers too, and burst into tears. Would she thank the Pope, the Churches, the Dalai Lama, next?

Given time, maybe. But other tributes came first. John Major, the former Prime Minister of Finland, Harri Hokeri; someone called General John de Chastelain... And of course "the constant support and direct involvement of my Rt Hon Friend the Prime Minister." From Labour MPs, Mr Blair's name got a cheer slightly cooler than that accorded to Mr Mitchell, but better than the former Prime Minister of Finland.

It is to detract not a jot from her practical achievements to remark that the decaffeinated Ms Mowlam, who probably points the way for the "inclusive" politics of the next century, is Westminster's best exponent of a political style for which the term "banal" carries too much of a sense of vigour and bite. Her speeches are like a symphony played on plastic spoons. Her Tory Shadow responded by paying tribute to her. She replied by paying tribute to him.

Paddy Ashdown, one tenth of whose deadly arsenal of

trite phrases would be sufficient to wipe out life on this planet, then paid tribute to absolutely everybody, lurching into a sound-munch of buttock-clenching piety ("not peace, the chance of peace...") and stopped just short of the quality of mercy and beating swords into ploughshares. Mowlam thanked him.

Those tempted to suppose that this was as sanctimonious as it gets had reckoned without John Hume (SDLP, Foyle), who shifts into sepulchral mode

with the accustomed case of a racing driver shifting into eighth gear. Mr Hume thanked everyone all over again, omitting tribute only to that man the acknowledgement of whose efforts forms the unarticulated major premise of every Hume utterance. Mowlam articulated it, paying tribute to him.

Then the backbenchers piled in. As Margaret Moran (Luton 5) laid at Ms Mowlam's feet the tributes of Luton, I fled in a kind of panic.

Unions climb down over votes for recognition

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, PHIL WEBSTER AND CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

THE unions yesterday gave ground in the battle with the Government and the CBI over new rights for workers.

Tony Blair was heading for victory in the long-running dispute as the TUC finally dropped its insistence that a simple majority of workers taking part in a ballot would be enough to force employers to recognise unions.

Instead, a special meeting of the general council said the unions were prepared to accept that a minimum of 30 per cent of the workforce would have to vote in favour of recognition for it to occur.

They also accepted for the first time that the smallest firms could be exempted from the rules.

But although the moves were welcomed last night as a step in the right direction by senior members of the Government, and attacked by some union leaders as a caveat, there were indications that it would not be enough to satisfy Mr Blair, who has taken charge of the issue from Margaret Beckett, the Board of Trade President.

He is still expected, after his return from the Middle East tonight, to press the unions to move closer to the CBI public position, which is that 50 per cent of the workforce should vote in favour of recognition for it to take place.

The Prime Minister is understood to accept that that is an unrealistically high threshold but he is still expected to press either for a higher minimum vote for recognition

to qualify, or for a minimum threshold of voters for the ballot to be valid.

The CBI has argued privately this should be 80 per cent of the workforce but Mr Blair is likely to accept a lower figure. Some ministers want him to go for a figure as low as 40 per cent, but he may insist that a ballot should involve at least 50 or 60 per cent of the workforce.

Informed government sources suggested that last night's public concession was recognition of something they had long privately accepted — that Mr Blair would not agree to the unions' demand that a simple majority regardless of the size of the ballot should be enough. "They have got their concession in first, in order to make us look unreasonable if we say it is not enough," a source close to the negotiations said. "It does not appear yet to be enough."

The TUC said it had made its concession in an attempt to "help reach a positive early conclusion" on the vexed issue. The TUC's more conciliatory approach suggests it accepts that Mr Blair is more inclined towards supporting the employer position, in part because of government fears that the simple majority system could be hijacked by unrepresentative, militant unionists.

However, the offer which was unveiled by John Monks, the TUC general secretary, is likely to receive a bumpy ride at union grassroots level, with the first test coming at the



Donald Dewar, left, says that Ian Oliver should pack his bags and go. "The public will expect no less"



Police chief defies resignation call

Continued from page 1

this case within the first few hours. Now, in the aftermath, there is some evidence of denial and recrimination.

The report also denounces the force's own report on the case as lacking objectivity and inviting speculation which is intended to "draw the mind of the reader away from the truth". But Dr Oliver, who complained about the "emotive and harsh" language of the Power report, said: "I manifestly reject that Grampian Police as an entity failed. Yes, we made mistakes. Yes, we made misjudgments, but there are reasons for that."

The victim's parents, Deronis and Patsy Simpson, said, however, that Dr Oliver was arrogant and naive and that Mr

Power had done an excellent job. They could now get on with their grieving.

The force's handling of the case had attracted criticism from the beginning. Mr and Mrs Simpson complained the day after they reported their son missing that officers did not appear to be doing enough to find him. When Scott's body was discovered in a lane that had been searched two days previously, they feared he had been held at Leisk's house for two days before being dumped.

But Mr Power's report suggests that Scott was killed a few hours after he was abducted and his body, covered by a pair of brightly-coloured shorts, had been overlooked during the initial search.

A tip-off from one of Leisk's relatives eventually led the police to the killer, who took officers to where Scott's body lay. He pleaded guilty to murder in Aberdeen High Court last September and was jailed for life.

In January a social work inquiry into the case revealed that Leisk had not been adequately supervised. On the day it was published Dr Oliver was attending a conference in Taiwan. Henry McLeish, the Scottish Office Home Affairs Minister, said he was "astonished and angry" that Dr Oliver was abroad when he should have been shouldering some of the responsibility for the mistakes.

The growing antagonism between the two men erupted again last week when Dr Oliver said that leaked comments about the Lothian and Borders report which were attributed to Mr McLeish verged on the defamatory.

Report catalogues blunders and incompetence by police

'Lack of professional vigour' in force, Gillian Harris reports

THE first mistakes in the Scott Simpson murder case were made hours after the nine-year-old boy was abducted on a hot day last July.

According to the independent report written by Graham Power, Lothian and Borders Assistant Chief Constable, officers in the Grampian force failed to recognise the significance of Steve Leisk, whose name appeared on a printout of convicted paedophiles and who was living in a tenement building close to the park where Scott was last seen alive.

"A speculative search could have identified Leisk as a leading suspect in the early hours of the inquiry," says Mr Power, who catalogues a series of blunders and a raft of incompetence in his eight-volume report.

If officers had used a police computer to check on a report that Scott had been seen with a



Scott's body was not found for three days

man who offered him a cigarette, Leisk's name would have been the only one to come up. They would have seen that it was a tactic he had used in the past to lure boys away from their friends.

"Taken collectively, Grampian police had all the information they needed to solve this case within the first few hours. Now, in the aftermath, there is some evidence of denial and recrimination," Mr Power says.

Having made a disastrous start, the police also failed to follow up reports from children who were playing in the park with Scott. Two seven-year-old girls saw the boy walking away with Leisk, but Mr Power says that their statements were not fully investigated by the police.

The manner in which the investigation was carried out is also criticised. Mr Power refers to a "lack of professional vigour" and suggests that the officers were reluctant to believe Scott's distraught parents when they said their son had been abducted and would not run away.

The report says that Scott was a timid boy who was afraid of the dark and stayed close to his home in the Powis area of Aberdeen. He was unlikely to have gone far on his own.

The absence of a qualified officer in charge of the investi-

NEWS IN BRIEF

Diana car survivor to leave Al Fayed

Trevor Rees-Jones, survivor of the Paris car crash in which Diana, Princess of Wales was killed, is resigning as a bodyguard for Mohamed Al Fayed. The former paratrooper gave no reason for his decision and had not told his parents or brother. In a statement issued from his home town at Oswestry, Shropshire, Mr Rees-Jones said that he will leave "with regret" on May 19, about two months after returning to Harrods as a member of the security team. He wanted to "move on" with his life but gave no indication what he will do next. Mr Al Fayed responded by saying that he would be welcome to return should he ever wish to do so.

Parade banned

The Ballynateigh Orange Order parade was yesterday banned from the flashpoint Ormeau Road area of Belfast on Sunday. The Parades Commission also announced that a band parade in Lurgan, Co Armagh, on Friday night could go ahead but with restrictions. Deal, page 12

CPS drops case

There will be no criminal prosecution over the death of Louis Wedge, the three-year-old boy whose body was found by a railway line after he had strayed from his home in Maltby, South Yorkshire. The Crown Prosecution Service said there was insufficient evidence for a case.

Opera caretaker

Richard Jarman, former general director of Scottish Opera, has been appointed as a caretaker artistic director of the Royal Opera House. His appointment on a two-year contract follows a spate of departures from the House including Mary Allen, the former chief executive.

War crime trial

The second man to be charged in Britain with war crimes yesterday appeared before Bow Street magistrates, who will decide whether to send him for trial. Anthony Sawoniuk, 77, of Bermondsey, southeast London, faces five charges of murdering Jews in 1942.

Hot property

Rachel Kelly, The Times Property Correspondent, yesterday received a £250 prize as runner-up at the Housing Corporation Housing Journalist of the Year Award at a Manchester conference on housing. The winner was Paul Smith, a reporter on the Staffordshire Sentinel.

Smith under pressure over Sky TV job for Blair aide

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Conservatives yesterday stepped up the attack over the appointment of Tim Allan, one of the Prime Minister's closest aides, to BSkyB television, which is partly owned by Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, parent company of The Times.

Tim Collins, the Tory MP, asked if Mr Allan, who has worked for Mr Blair since 1992, had been given the job as the channel's director of corporate communications because of his "access to the heart of Government".

Francis Maude, Shadow Culture Secretary, asked if Mr Allan was the "conduit" for

Mr Blair's phone call with Romano Prodi, the Italian Prime Minister during which Mr Murdoch's business interests were discussed. Mr Maude also demanded to know whether the Cabinet Office had been consulted.

Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, argued that the Government had been even-handed to all media organisations. It had supported the BBC's new 24-hour news operation even though it was against the interests of BSkyB.

Mr Allan, 28, began working for Mr Blair when he was Shadow Home Secretary in 1992. Since then he has been working closely with Alastair

Campbell, the Prime Minister's press secretary.

Mr Collins asked whether Mr Smith had ever discussed policy issues relating to News International with Tim Allan at Downing Street. "Do you believe that the 28-year-old Mr Allan has been offered a salary of £100,000 a year because of his mastery of the motor scooter — or because of his access to the heart of Government?"

Mr Smith replied: "I have never discussed such matters with Mr Allan and I must say that that question coming from a former Tory communications director, does smack a little of jealousy to me."

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Marcus Binions
Irvine f in cost
S

Marcus Binney finds a three-piece suite mentality at the Lord Chancellor's refurbished apartments



The dining room contains a table that cost £14,000. In the River Room, right, "appalling" stands for the statues cut across the pattern of the new carpet. Both rooms feature wallpapers and carpets from designs by Augustus Pugin

Irvine follows the flock in costly restorations

Such has been the hype about the expensive redecoration of the Lord Chancellor's apartments in the Palace of Westminster that I went expecting a palatial suite of huge state rooms double banked with old masters in carved and gilt frames along the walls — done with a panache that Timothy Clifford has brought to the national museums of Scotland.

But Lord Irvine of Lairg had a hard act to follow. In Royal Palaces such as Windsor Castle, in private and National Trust country houses such as Goodwood and Waddesdon, even in historic hotels such as Claridges and The Ritz, restoration and redecoration has been undertaken with fantastic flair. And, although he had the best of intentions and a commendable determination to secure work and materials of the highest quality, Lord Irvine had the problem of dealing with a government department, the Parliamentary Works Directorate.

If the apartments had been put on show in the mid-1980s, instead of yesterday (to the media) the applause might have been as universal as it was over the redecoration of the House of Lords or the Speaker's House. Those restorations were a real voyage of discovery, a revelation of the blaze of colour and richness to be found in Victorian interiors. Unfortunately, the glories of the Victorian age, whether Pugin Gothic, Arts and Crafts or Greenery-Yallery, are everywhere to be seen.

To those working on the Palace of Westminster, the Lord Chancellor's residence seemed a natural progression in the campaign to restore dignity and authenticity to the Houses of Parliament, and also to honour the genius of the designer Augustus Pugin.

There is a pattern book of Pugin wallpapers in the Victoria and Albert Museum that Clive Wainwright, the great and genial expert on Victorian, describes as the Rosetta Stone of wallpaper, providing samples of designs as well as details of where they went. More than that, the original print blocks still exist. To the student of historic interiors, this is electrifying material with which to work.

Pugin died aged 40, exhausted by overwork, strain and money worries. He was a man of prodigious output with a capacity to produce accomplished and inventive designs that dazzled everyone who worked with him. The problem in the Lord Chancellor's residence is that in virtually every room there is too great a profusion of colour, pattern and texture. The main room, the River Room, has a marvellous, almost malachite green double flock wallpaper, full of lustre; but it has to fight with a purple and maroon pattern carpet, beige rose and crown Pugin blinds, faded yellow linen upholstery covers and rich red and blue Victorian tiles in the fireplace.

The Lord Chancellor's bedroom — he and Lady Irvine move in at the end of the month — is hung with a bright and lively green and yellow flock paper, but it is killed off by the dowdiest velvet curtains and bed cover. "The Lord Chancellor chose autumn colours," we were told, but these are not warm browns or golds but washed-out sludge.

It happens again in the dining room, where the pumpkin oranges of Sir Frank Brangwyn's *Market Stall* do battle with burgundy red flock. Too many of the new curtains are a letdown, not only because the colours are dull but because the tassels and fringes, despite the ex-

pense, do not represent the best and most attractive available.

A great deal of money and trouble has been taken over the furniture, but the three-piece suite mentality still dominates. In the River Room the wooden sofa bench is flanked by carefully-matching chaise longue placed with self-conscious symmetry. In the drawing room the sofa and matching chairs are all upholstered in the same subfusc purples and mauves and beg for a few colourful cushions.

To say all this is "curry house flock" or "a William Morris job for a Holiday Inn", as did the style guru Stephen Bayley, is too brutal, but it touches the fundamental point that there are just too many patterns swirling around.

Most of the reworked Pugin carpets are fitted, the pattern filling a large part of the rooms and a plain border in the same colour continuing to the edge of the walls. This creates an hotel look: it would be much better if wooden floors were visible around the carpets. In the ante-room to the River Room there is a different problem: the elaborate, hexagon carpet is fitted into every alcove and recess, this time without a border, which again looks madly over-elaborate.

The River Room looks splendid thanks partly to two vast and magnificent sea pieces by Samuel Scott, but the effect is damaged by the truly appalling stands for the sugar-white Victorian statues that are laboriously painted to match the Purbeck marble of the mantelpiece. They are laughably large and clumsy.

Running through the residence is a hallway painted in a kind of pinky-terracotta, likened by one of those present yesterday to tomato soup with added milk.

The redecoration shows once again that in matters of interior restoration, scholarship and curatorship are not enough: taste, together with the courage and instinctive judgment that go with it, are also essential.

A price list of some of the items in the apartments includes a £14,000 dining table, eight mirrors costing £32,768 and three beds £49,773. The wallpaper cost £57,233, ranging from about £70 a roll upwards. Hand-woven fabrics cost £24,430, carpet £21,989 and Pugin design crockery

£8,776. When money such as this has been spent — the total cost is now estimated to be £590,000, down from £650,000 — the effect should ravish the eye: it does at Dropmore, and at Windsor Castle. The Lord Chancellor's problem is that the restoration of historic interiors is a very fast moving field and a lot of people are doing dazzling work.

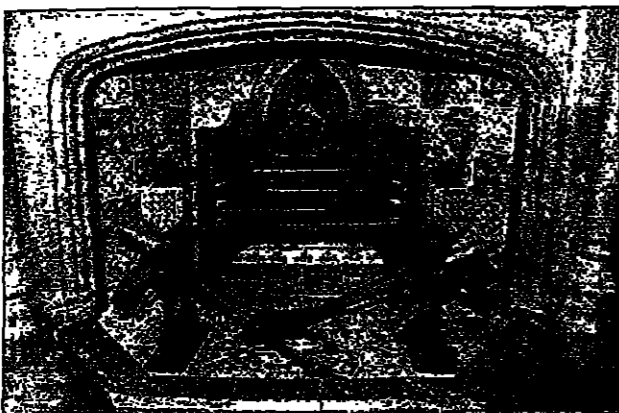
Pugin's style and taste evolved rapidly and, had he

lived, we can be sure his later interiors would have been very different. MPs and peers must not be made to live and work in a timewarp, whereby the only course of action is to follow pre-1852 designs.

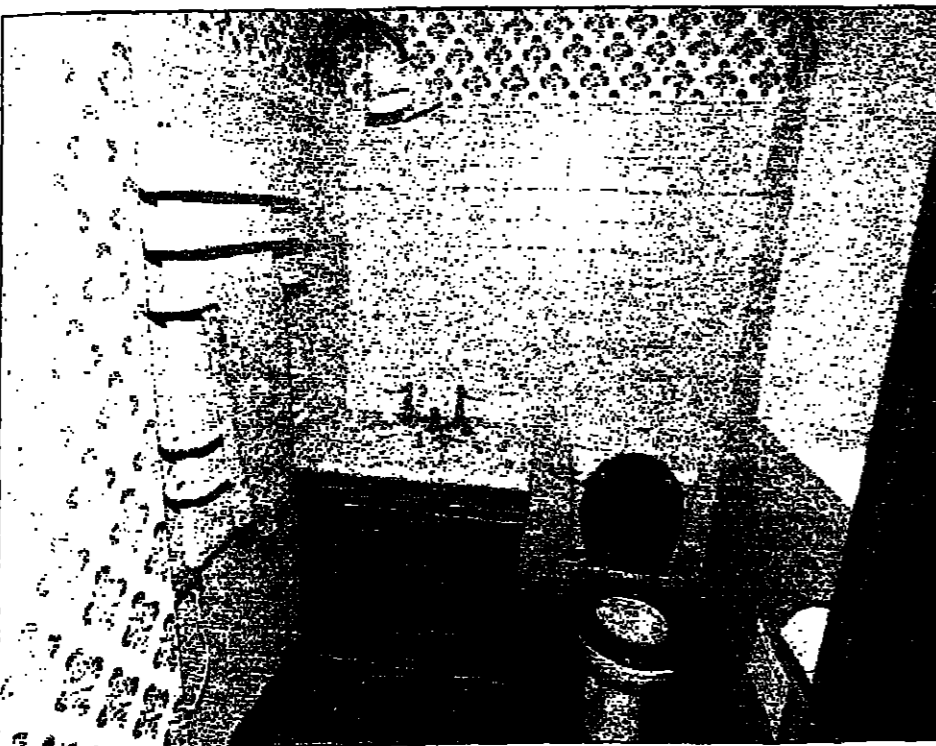
It must be right for the main public rooms of Parliament to be faithfully restored, but as has been shown in the Lord Chancellor's residence, when it comes to Pugin, you can have too much of a good thing.



The colour of the residence's hallway was likened to tomato soup with added milk



The River Room fireplace tiles were originally floor tiles



Even the guests' WC is decorated in the dramatic style of the rest of the apartments

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Spaniards face £1m penalties for overfishing

By SIMON DE BRUKELLES

SPANISH fishermen face fines of more than £1 million today after pleading guilty to massive overfishing in British waters.

Thirteen companies and ten skippers admitted more than 100 offences of overfishing, catching protected species and falsifying log books between 1995 and 1997. The offences carry the potential penalty of "unlimited" fines.

Michael Davey, prosecuting for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, told Haverfordwest Crown Court: "Taken together this is the largest group of offences ever to come before the courts in this country. In some individual cases they also represent the grossest examples of overfishing ever to have been detected."

One vessel, the *Serrano Hevia*, was found with 128 tonnes of anglerfish tails on board when it had a licence to catch just two tonnes. Another trawler, the *Eder Sands*, caught seven tonnes of hake when the population was so dangerously low that the fishing grounds had been officially closed.

All the trawlers which sailed out of La Coruña, in northern Spain, fished for hake and anglerfish off the west coast of Britain and sailed straight back home with their catches.

Mr Davey said the companies were registered in Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, in order to qualify for British fishing quotas.

The overfishing came to light after a series of interceptions by fisheries' protection vessels from Britain and Ireland.

"The skippers tended to keep accurate logs because false entries would have meant being detained. But

when the log book entries were analysed the offences were uncovered," he said.

Ministry officials also found log books and landing declarations had been altered to suggest some fish had been thrown back or were of a different type.

The defence failed in its latest attempt to have sentencing postponed when Judge Martin Stephens said he "wanted to get on with it" before retiring in seven years' time.

Mr Davey said the quota system protected species under pressure and were altered each month to reflect current population levels.

"These offences are very difficult to detect," he said, adding that under new European Union rules any overfishing by five tonnes or more would be deducted from the UK total for the following year.

Eubank pulls no punches on future

CHRIS EUBANK pledged to fight on yesterday as he emerged from hospital nearly 48 hours after being defeated in a gruelling world championship fight.

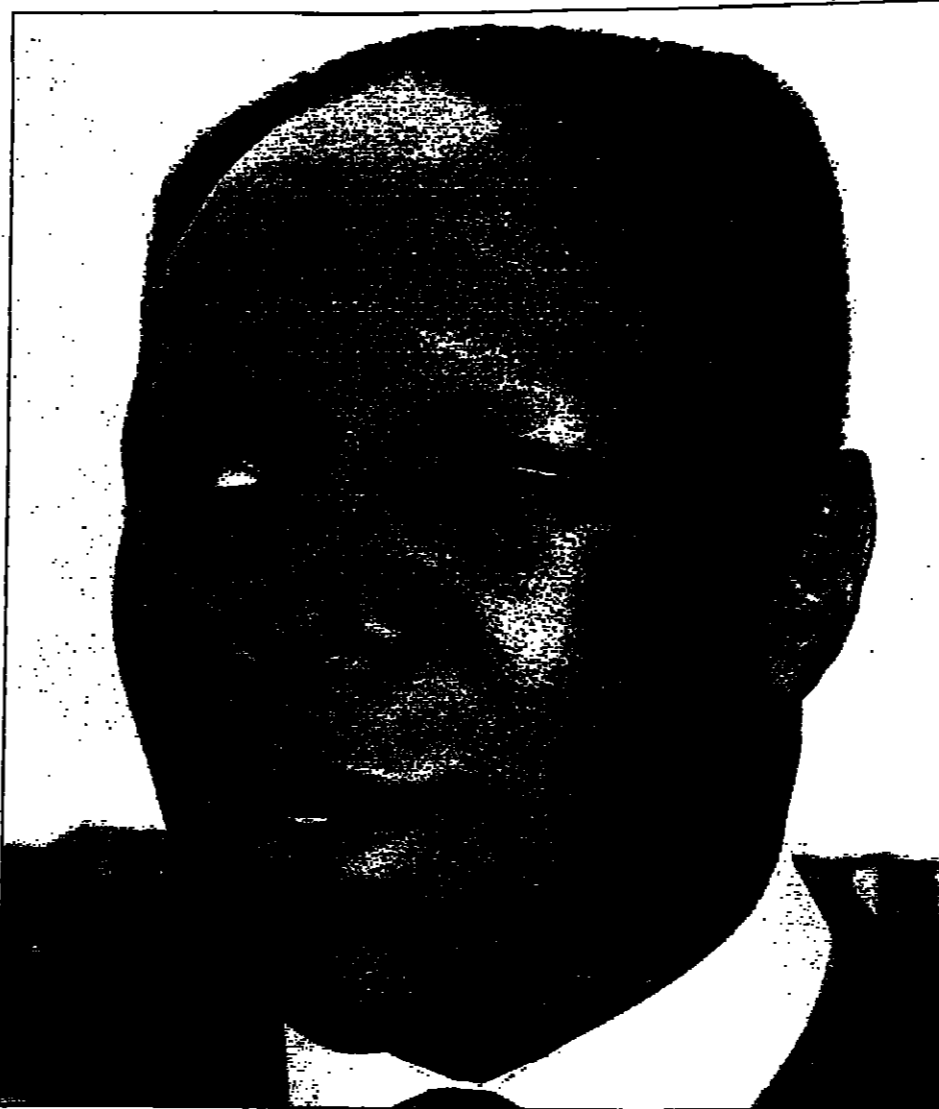
The former WBO middle-weight and super-middle-weight champion had been admitted to Manchester Royal Infirmary after losing to Carl Thompson, the title-holder, on Saturday night.

After a brain scan and treatment for a badly bruised and swollen left eye, Eubank, 31, left the hospital in an ivory Rolls-Royce. Asked if he had any thoughts of retirement, he said: "A winner never quits and a quitter never wins."

Wearing a blue pin-stripe suit, and with his left eye swollen and closed, he said he never felt he was seriously or permanently injured. Referring to his eye injury, he said: "It was nothing more than a good shot. I've been here under observation."

Andy Ayling, a spokesman for the fighter, said: "He is in perfect shape and has no lasting damage to his health."

Retirement call, page 56



Chris Eubank, bruised from battle, leaving Manchester Royal Infirmary yesterday

Countess who left accident fined £150

By A STAFF REPORTER

RUTH, Countess Lloyd George, first wife of Earl Lloyd George of Dwyfor, was yesterday fined £150 for failing to stay at the scene of an accident after a moped rider had fallen under her Mercedes car.

Lloyd George, 79, was chased and stopped by a police car when she drove off after the accident in Central London last year. Horseferry magistrates' court in Westminster was told.

Nazir Afzal, for the prosecution, said that Lloyd George was driving in Chelsea with an elderly lady passenger when a moped driven by Diego Mancini tried to overtake but collided with her car. After Mr Mancini had been helped by a member of the public Lloyd George left the scene without stopping.

The court was told that Lloyd George, of Cadogan Square, Chelsea, had been driving for 60 years and had a clean licence. Alan Burcombe, for the defence, said that she had decided to drive to her passenger's home to report the accident.

Cancer doctors charged over death of boy

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

TWO doctors who worked at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children were charged with manslaughter yesterday over the death of a 12-year-old boy being treated for cancer.

Richie William, from Catford, southeast London, died while receiving chemotherapy treatment while in remission last July after becoming ill a few months earlier. He had been suffering from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and received an injection in his spine instead of a vein. He died two days later after the destruction of his nervous system.

His mother Dolores said her son had suffered agonies from the effects of the drug. There were no antidotes for the treatment and she had been told the drug was like liquid fire in his veins.

Scotland Yard said yesterday that Michael John Tsen Lee, 34, from Finsbury Park, North London and Dermot Matthew Murphy, also 34, from Clapham, South London, were charged when they turned up to answer bail at Holborn police station. At the time of the death Dr Lee was a specialist registrar in paediatric anaesthetics and Dr Murphy was a registrar in

haematology. The two men appeared by prior arrangement and were released on police bail by detectives from Holborn CID to appear at Bow Street magistrates court in June.

The charges were brought after a coroner called for a police inquiry and police submitted a file to the Crown Prosecution Service.

The hospital said yesterday that neither the doctors was still working there. It added that the two men had been at the hospital to receive specialist training.

A spokeswoman said both were very well qualified. In a statement the hospital said it would like to reiterate its deepest regrets for the death of Ritchie's family. Hospital staff had been in contact with his mother and was offering its fullest support at a difficult time. The hospital had also cooperated with the police during investigations.

Dr Lee is now working at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital in Stanmore, north London as a research fellow on a three-month fellowship and was being supervised by the clinical director. He has no direct contact with the patients.

Speaker supports Commons smokers

By JAMES LANDALE

BETTY BOOTHROYD stood up for smokers yesterday in a battle between health-conscious MPs and their tobacco-using colleagues.

Madam Speaker, a modest smoker herself, asked MPs to water down the latest attempt to rid the House of Commons of smoke-filled rooms. A ban that came into force yesterday substantially extended the number of no-smoking areas in the House of Commons.

The Commons Administration Committee had wanted to ban smoking in the long Committee Corridor on the first floor of the Commons and Lords. But Miss Boothroyd persuaded the MPs that it would be unfair to members of public, who wait in the corridor before giving evidence to committees. Some might want a quick puff to calm nerves.

Smoking is already banned in much of the Commons, including the chamber, the committee rooms, and the members' and public lobbies. The habit was barred in the chamber in 1693 when MPs agreed that "no member do presume to take tobacco in the gallery of the House or at a committee table".

The only form of tobacco permitted there is snuff. Doorkeepers still keep snuff, provided at taxpayers' expense, in a silver box by the chamber entrance.

With the new ban in force, the only places where smoking is still permitted in the Commons is the Committee Corridor and in the bars and restaurants.

Squirrels out of their trees on nicotine

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

SQUIRRELS are showing signs of becoming hooked on nicotine after eating tobacco from discarded cigarette ends. Staff at the Moors Valley Country Park, eight miles north of Bournemouth, think that the grey squirrels' habit may be linked to outbreaks of aggression.

Ian Parsons, the Forestry Commission's leading ranger at the park, said: "It may be a coincidence, but the few periods when we have had to ban smoking because of a fire risk have also been the only times when the squirrels have given any trouble. Picnickers reported that the animals were jumping on to tables, pinching food and even biting people who tried to shoo them away. It could be that the squirrels were missing their nicotine fix."

"Recently we found a packet that someone must have dropped; all the tobacco had been carefully removed from the four or five cigarettes left inside. One ranger later saw a squirrel that was behaving in a lethargic way and showing reluctance to run up a tree even when approached, which suggests that it might have been suffering from nicotine poisoning."

Stephen Harris, Professor of Zoology at the University of Bristol, said: "I have not heard of squirrels eating cigarettes but it is amazing what animals will become addicted to. If the squirrels are eating tobacco, they would get a high dose of nicotine relative to their body weight."

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Thomson passenger unhappy

Victims of flood face bill from fire chiefs

Yemen gang demand ransom

Thomson takes passengers off unhappy cruise

Unfinished refit marred trip, reports David Charter

HUNDREDS of holiday-makers were yesterday flown home from a transatlantic cruise after they muffled over the service provided by the crew.

Thomson Holidays took its 756 passengers off the liner *Topaz* just three days into an 18-day voyage from Athens to the Gulf of Mexico.

The holiday firm, which unveiled plans for a £1.7 billion stock market flotation yesterday, acted after a barrage of complaints about slow service and continuing work to refit the vessel.

A further 170 passengers who booked with Voyages of Discovery have stayed on board to complete their trip.

The 31,500-tonne *Topaz* was already at the centre of a dispute over a school trip over Easter in the Mediterranean, organised by Voyages of Discovery. Students missed a day of their cruise while waiting for maintenance work and then found sewage from blocked lavatories overflowing into cabins.

Thomson said delays to its multimillion-pound refit of the American-owned *Topaz* were caused by a strike by Greek shipyard workers, a power cut in Athens and bad weather. Customers who paid between £999 and £1,650 complained that workmen were still decorating the ship and staff did not know their way around.

Thomson cancelled the holiday in Malta on Sunday, and a steady stream of passengers arrived back at Birmingham, Gatwick and Manchester airports yesterday.

A Thomson spokeswoman said: "We felt that it was in the best interests of our customers' comfort and enjoyment to terminate the cruise when the ship arrived at Malta. Naturally we are extremely sorry and recognise the upset and disappointment this decision is likely to cause our customers. However, we hope that they will understand why it has been necessary to take this

action. Our main priority now is to compensate customers for the inconvenience and disappointment of having their holiday interrupted."

The holidaymakers will receive £500 each on top of a full refund, she said. Some had chosen to fly to the Caribbean for an alternative cruise.

An offer of a partial refund to the more than 1,000 school children who sailed on the *Topaz* at Easter has been rejected as too low by Buckinghamshire, Essex and Surrey county councils.

The youngsters were marooned in Athens for a day in hotels that a council spokesman described as ranging from "luxurious to harrowing", waiting for repairs to the ship. When it eventually set sail around the Mediterranean the pupils found that many cabins did not have furniture and there was no vegetarian food. Workmen continued the re-fit throughout the seven-day trip.

Many of the teenagers had saved money from part-time jobs to pay for the £816-a-head journey.

A spokesman for Essex County Council said: "On arrival in Athens, all 1,150 pupils were put up in hotels with, for example, light fittings trailing from the ceiling, mould and damp. They left on the vessel 23 hours late but many of the cabins did not have beds or furniture which meant some students did not settle down until 2am."

"A refit continued for the whole journey and problems were compounded by other difficulties. Two of the Essex travellers had sewage on their cabin floor and there was a general problem with water supply."

Dipesh Tanna, 15, a pupil at Philip Morant School in Colchester, Essex, said: "On the first night we stayed in the worst hotel in the world. And in Athens we didn't even get the chance to see the Acropolis because we were taken to a shopping mall." Her school-

friend Alison Albins, 15, added: "We missed lots of things — we couldn't go to Bethlehem or visit a Greek island because of poor organisation. No amount of compensation can make up for missing things like that."

David Jones, their head teacher, said: "We have been cruising with the same company since 1973 and this is the first time we have had anything like this happen. Our students were put up in poor, low-class tourist accommodation in Athens but in the event got quite a good cabin on the boat."

"Things had been missed out anyway because of the troubles in Egypt so there was an extra degree of disappointment when they could not go to Bethlehem."

Chief's options, page 29



James Coulter, who was piloting the hired helicopter that crashed, with his wife Teresa and daughter Lorraine

Four die as helicopter hits woodland

FOUR people died when a light helicopter crashed in woodland as it returned to an airfield after a day trip (Stephen Farrell writes). Air accident investigators were last night examining the wreckage of the four-seat Robinson R44 to find out why it came down near Market Harborough, Leicestershire.

The pilot was James Coulter, 34, a builder, who hired the aircraft for £315 from Heli-Air Flying Training at nearby Stoughton airfield. People reported hearing a low-flying helicopter in trouble over Saddington Reservoir at 10pm on Sunday, then a loud crash, but an overnight search was hampered by rain and fog. An RAF rescue helicopter was brought in at daylight but the wreckage with the

bodies inside was not found until 6am yesterday. Chief Inspector Chris Garnham, of Leicestershire police, said: "The search went on all night, but there was a vast expanse of land to cover in extremely poor weather conditions." Mike Smith, owner of Heli-Air, said: "We believe he was returning to the airfield when the tragedy occurred."

Skipper's dream to berth with Britannia

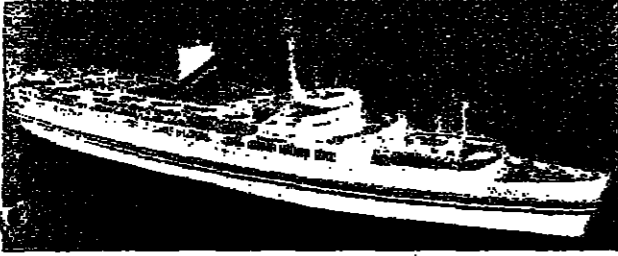
BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE former commanding officer of the Royal Yacht *Britannia* may rejoin his old ship when she begins her new career as a tourist attraction in Edinburgh this summer.

Commodore Tony Morrow confirmed yesterday that he was in discussions with Forth Ports, owners of Leith Docks in the Scottish capital, to act as a consultant to the vessel's new owners. Commodore Morrow commanded the yacht for its last three years; he should have retired last year but was allowed to stay on to see the vessel into her own retirement.

He will leave the Navy in July, shortly before *Britannia* is due to open to the public for this year's Edinburgh Festival in August.

Commodore Morrow, who sat on the committee to decide *Britannia*'s fate, at one time agreed with the Queen that the 45-year-old vessel should be scuttled. But yesterday he said: "I believe Forth Ports are well-disposed to preserving *Britannia*'s dignity."



The *Topaz*, which has been involved in two disputes

Victims of flood face bill from fire chiefs

BY ADRIAN LEE

VICTIMS of the Easter floods must pay the fire brigade that pumped out their homes. Up to 100 households in Buckinghamshire will receive "special service" bills next month for £278.50 an hour for each crew.

Residents in Milton Keynes, Buckingham and Newport Pagnell are affected. The fire service said the money could be reclaimed from insurance companies. Fire services in other badly hit areas said that they had no plans to make the discretionary charge on homes, although some would consider charging commercial premises.

Jeff Goddard, chief fire officer for Buckinghamshire and Milton, said the brigade had no statutory duty to pump out flooded houses and was not funded to do it. It received about 750 calls over the Easter weekend, and the floods had cost about £50,000. Brian White, Labour MP for Milton Keynes North East, said: "I think it is absolutely disgraceful."

However, a spokesman for the Association of British Insurers said that claims would be treated sympathetically. "Having a home pumped out would be viewed as a step taken by policy holders to minimise damage." The ABI has said that one in four people does not have contents insurance.

Ken Rose, general manager of the Chief Fire Officers Association, said: "This is a matter for each authority. There are differences of practice around the country. Special charges are kept under review because of budgetary pressure."

Yemeni gang demand ransom

BY HELEN RUMBLOW

YEMENI tribesmen will release a kidnapped British family only if their Government paves local roads and returns a car, a security official said yesterday.

David Mitchell, his wife Carolyn and 14-year-old son Ben, have been held in the town of Knoum, 100 miles northeast of Sanaa, since they were ambushed on Friday.

The security official said that five members of the Beni Dabiyan tribe kidnapped the family to pressurise the Government into improving roads, and returning a confiscated four-wheel-drive vehicle that police suspected had been used in a kidnap attempt.

Victor Henderson, the British Ambassador in Sanaa, is to meet with Yemeni ministers today to try to confirm the reports.

Soldiers have surrounded the village where the Mitchells are being held. A spokesman for the British Embassy in Sanaa said: "We have emphasised that this must be dealt with peacefully."

The family was abducted as Mr Mitchell, an English teacher with the British Council, was driving his son and wife back to the airport to put them on a flight home after they visited him over Easter. Mr Mitchell has worked in Yemen for two years. His wife and son went back to Sidley, East Sussex, last year for Ben to start his GCSEs.

The embassy spokesman said that Najj Abdullah Al-Soufi, governor of the Dhamar region, who has played a critical role in freeing previous kidnap victims, had been sent to plead the family's case before the tribal chief.



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WEDNESDAY APRIL 21 1998

Lawrence questions unfair to Yard, says Condon

BY ADRIAN LEE

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Wanted: black envoy for Britain

Valerie Elliott reports on the Foreign Office's plans to boost minorities

ROBIN COOK is planning to "jump-start" equal opportunities in the Foreign Office by appointing a black ambassador from outside the diplomatic service. Names being canvassed in Whitehall include Trevor MacDonald, the newscaster, and Herman Ouseley, chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality.

The need to take such radical action is because of the poor representation of ethnic minorities in the Foreign Office. Out of 5,612 staff, only 189 are from ethnic minorities and of that figure some 160 are in

the lower grades. There are only four diplomats from ethnic minorities out of 666 in middle-management grades.

Even though the department has taken a lead in Whitehall to drum up recruitment of blacks and Asians, it could take 20 years before a career diplomat had the experience to head a major embassy such as Washington, Paris or Moscow.

But ministers also want to attract more blacks and Asians into the middle ranks

of the Foreign Office and are to hold a competition shortly to encourage graduates in their 30s and 40s to switch jobs and take up a diplomatic career.

The Government's thinking was revealed recently in the Lords by Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean, a junior Foreign Office Minister, and confirmed by Sir John Kerr, the country's most senior diplomat and the Permanent Secretary at the Foreign Office. He said he accepted there

might be a need "to jump-start a change" in the senior ranks of the Diplomatic Service. But he was against blatant positive discrimination and said there would be no lowering of Foreign Office standards.

One option under discussion would be to create a post of roving ambassador for a fixed term with a specific job description. Sir John said last night: "We should look outside from time to time — if it's on merit and not colour. But for the most part it would be

professionals we chose from. I would not want an amateur or artificial solution."

As a former Ambassador to Washington he has observed at first hand how the Americans have promoted blacks to senior positions — he has spotted the potential and the downside. He was impressed with Andrew Young, President Carter's man at the United Nations and his roving Ambassador in Africa. "He was brilliantly successful. He had a black skin, he was a

dynamic young man who had been an effective mayor of Atlanta. But if you are an African country you don't necessarily feel flattered if you detect that a government has been out looking for a black face."

Sir John is, however, extremely concerned that the Foreign Office is not being considered by ethnic minority students as a career. He said that his own children's brightest university friends were all East African Asians, yet not one of them had applied for the Foreign Office. "They are not thinking about the public service as a career. Yet some of them statistically should want to join us but they don't appear to want to join us."

The Foreign Office — with the support of unions — has now made it a priority to try to recruit more blacks and Asians and has broken new ground in government with the appointment of Linbert Spencer, an equal opportunities expert, as the first Whitehall ethnic minorities liaison officer.

Mr Spencer said last night that the problem for the Foreign Office was one of perception. "Members of the public see a stuffy Foreign Office, Oxbridge, closed, and think 'not for me', writ large. But this is not the reality."

Aiming to reach the top without a leg-up

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR



Mehmet: diplomat

ALP MEHMET, a Turkish-Cypriot, is one of the most senior diplomats from an ethnic minority. His next posting will be in Bonn as First Secretary for press and public relations, with a 20-strong team.

Mr Mehmet, 49, is firmly against any form of positive discrimination: "I would resent it and I am sure that others inside the Foreign Office would too. It is patronising individuals and condescending that somehow you have got to give someone a leg-up."

Mr Mehmet, who came to Britain from Cyprus in the Fifties, was head boy at his grammar school in Bethnal Green, East

London, before becoming a business student at Bristol Polytechnic. Mr Mehmet is adamant that he has never encountered prejudice inside the Foreign Office but adds: "It seems to be the perception for younger people and if that perception of discrimination is there about the FO, then we must work at it."

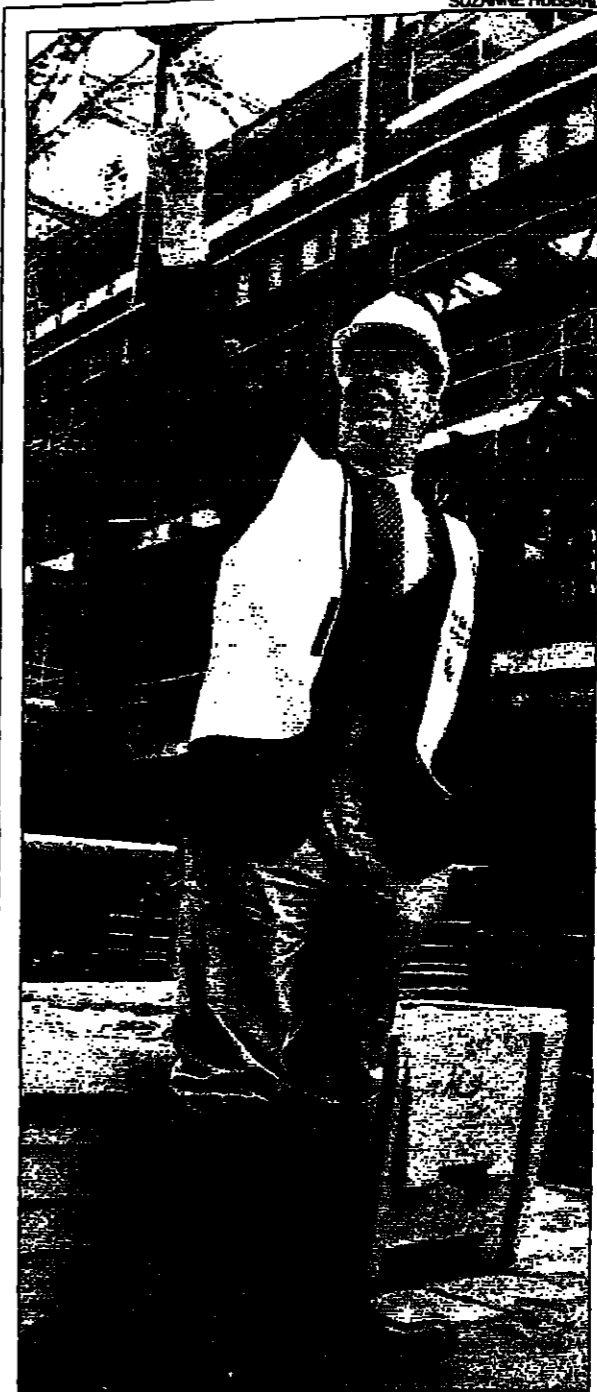
He has spoken at schools about careers in the Foreign Office and took part in an open day last year for people from ethnic minorities.

Mr Mehmet, who had worked as an immigration officer, got his first taste of diplomatic life 15 years ago when he was sent to Nigeria as an entry clearance officer. After four years he returned to

become an assistant private secretary to a junior minister. He worked for Ray Whitney, then Tim Renton, both responsible for immigration. He then served in Romania just before the revolution, where his job was to keep in close touch with dissidents. His next move was to become Deputy Ambassador to Iceland, a small mission, but an enjoyable posting.

For two years he served as parliamentary clerk overseeing the Foreign Office's parliamentary work before his current post in the news department.

Mr Mehmet says diplomatic work is open to anyone with ability. "There is always an opportunity to prove yourself."



Tate of the art: Lars Nittve at the site of the new Tate Gallery of Modern Art, which he will head

Swede gets Tate's modernist post

By PETER FOSTER

A SWEDISH art critic and museum director has been appointed as director of the new Tate Gallery of Modern Art.

Lars Nittve's appointment to the £58,000-a-year job breaks with a long tradition of having British directors in London's major museums. The new gallery is to open in the converted Bankside Power Station in South London in the spring of 2000.

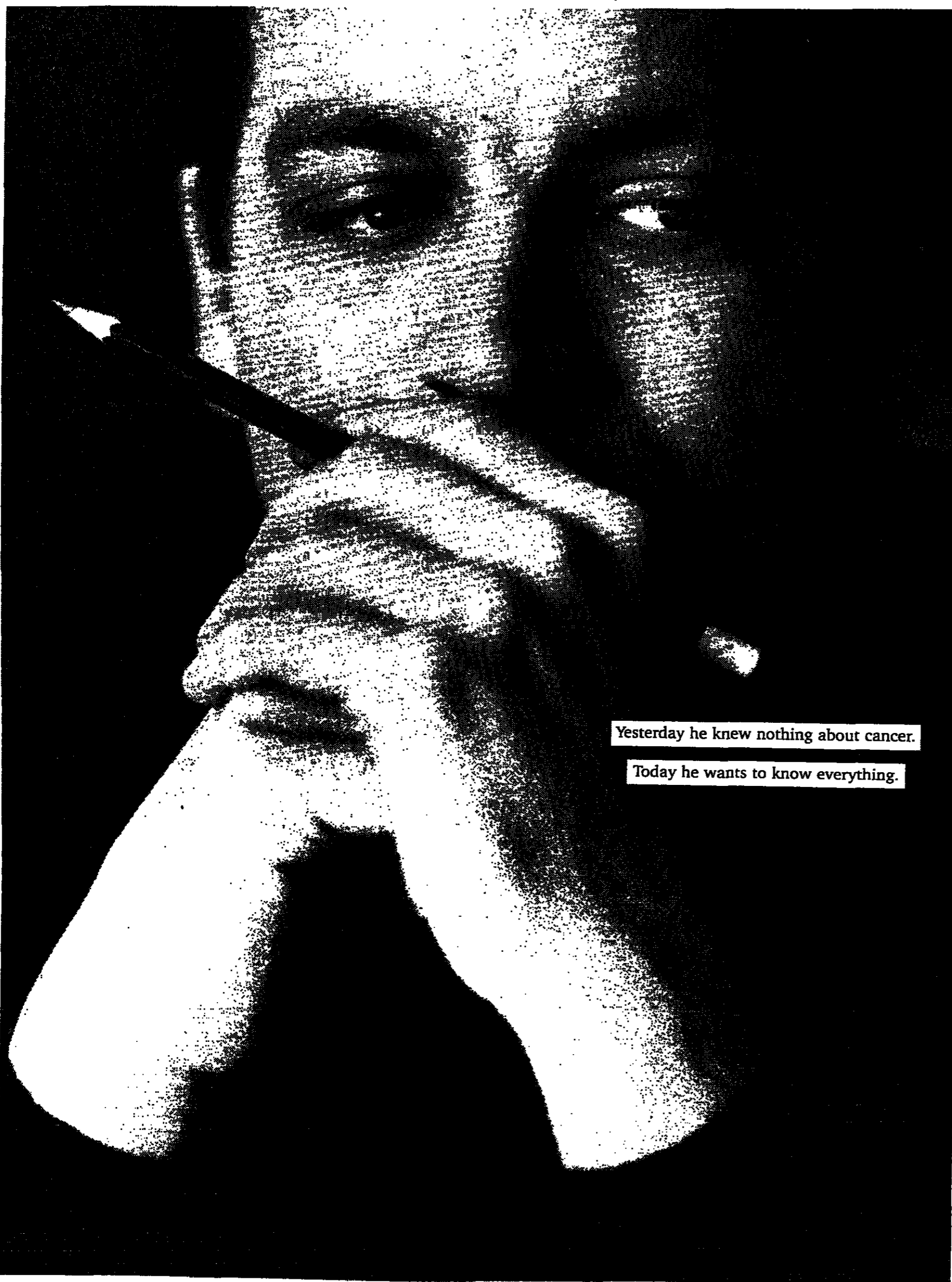
Nick Serota, the director of the Tate, said the appointment reflected the international nature of the modern art world. "In America there are at least half a dozen major museums with British directors, so it is surprising we have not had more American and European directors."

The £130 million project is being promoted as London's equivalent to the

Pompidou Centre in Paris. The gallery has secured £50 million in lottery funds but needs to secure a further £20 million from private finance.

Mr Nittve, 44, has been director of the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art outside Copenhagen since 1995 and is a former senior art critic for the Swedish daily *Svenska Dagbladet*. Yesterday he said: "This is a museum that is young and different and will be geared to contemporary art as well as housing scholarly retrospectives."

Mr Nittve said the climate of creativity symbolised by "Cool Britannia" had attracted him to the job: "Great Britain really does seem to be bursting with creative energy at the moment. From the outside it seems like a very good time to be coming here."



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E coli inquiry is told how woman was found dead

Shirley English at hearing into food bug outbreak

THE long-awaited fatal accident inquiry opened yesterday into the world's worst *E. coli* 0157 food poisoning outbreak, which killed 21 people in central Scotland.

The inquiry was presented with documentary and photographic evidence that showed bloodstains in the chill area of the butcher's shop, run by John Barr in Wishaw, at the centre of the outbreak in November 1996.

Linda Blair, 45, a teacher, told the court in an affidavit how she found her elderly mother, Annie Howie Crippie, 70, dead on the floor of her Bonnybridge home. She had died of food poisoning after being ill for four days.

Ms Blair said her mother ate a cold meat sandwich every day. After her death packets of cooked meat bought from a Scotmid store in Bonnybridge were found in her refrigerator. Scotmid received supplies from Mr Barr.

The lawyer representing Mr Barr said before the inquiry opened yesterday that his client hoped it would tackle questions that remained unanswered.

George Moore said: "He would like to know how the *E. coli* 0157 came into his shop, what if anything he did wrong, the quality of information he got from environmen-

tal health officers, and in particular, why they visited his shop on a number of occasions prior to the outbreak and made no adverse comments at all about his working practices."

Mr Barr, whose firm was fined £2,500 in January for breaches of hygiene regulations and selling meat contaminated with the organism, is listed as the penultimate witness and is unlikely to appear until late May. Professor Hugh Pennington, author of the government report into the tragedy, will be the last of 151 Crown witnesses to be called.

The outbreak began in Wishaw, North Lanarkshire, in November 1996 and spread to other areas of central Scotland through meat outlets supplied by Mr Barr's 30-year-old business on Caledonian Road. More than 400 people were infected with food poisoning and 160 were admitted to hospital.

Paul Santoni, who is representing relatives of victims, including Alex Gardiner, 69, of Wishaw, who died after eating contaminated cooked meat at a pensioner's lunch, said that the families wanted the truth. He would be raising questions about the standards of medical care victims received and the way in which the outbreak was handled by health officials.

"So far there has been a complete unwillingness to disclose any material fact which would have any bearing on what happened," he said.

Yesterday 29 lawyers representing 14 interested parties, including Wishaw Abattoir, Lanarkshire and Forth Valley Health Boards, North Lanarkshire Council and the Scottish Office, filled three rows of desks before Graham Loudon Cox, QC, the presiding sheriff principal, at the temporary court in a church centre in Motherwell.

The inquiry's remit will be to examine the circumstances surrounding the cause of the deaths and to explore whether

any "reasonable precautions" could have been taken to avoid them. Mr Cox will issue a determination at the end of proceedings, but his findings will not be admissible in any other judicial proceedings.

Outside the hearing, John and Jean Smith, from Wishaw, claimed that there were 22, not 21, victims of the outbreak. Mr Smith, 67, lost his mother Mary, 91, to *E. coli* in December 1996. She died in Monklands Hospital on December 28.

But he claimed that his father, Anthony Smith, 95, a former miner, had also died of undiagnosed *E. coli* 0157 food poisoning ten days before his wife on December 18. Because of their distress the family did not insist on a post-mortem examination. Mr Smith's daughter, Sharon, will be giving evidence later this week.



Graham Cox, the presiding sheriff principal, talking yesterday to a court official at the opening of the fatal accident inquiry in Motherwell



John Barr, butcher at the centre of outbreak

Policeman's lies brought £40,000

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A POLICEMAN who conned colleagues, victims of crime and strangers out of £40,000 to feed his gambling addiction was jailed for 15 months yesterday by Liverpool Crown Court.

Andrew Magowan, 30, from Lydiate, Sefton, used his position as a police constable with Lancashire police to borrow cash, but never paid it back. He would concoct a false story to obtain money from those who were vulnerable, the court was told. He would then hand over a cheque that would bounce.

He tricked one woman with savings of only £57 into giving him £50. He told a man aged 77 that he had lost his wallet, and conned him into giving him £20 that had been a birthday gift.

But Magowan, once a promising and ambitious officer commended for bravery, could not stop himself from "borrowing" from colleagues. He persuaded a cleaner at the police headquarters to part with £300, and a colleague lent

him £12,000. Magowan admitted 16 charges of deception, and asked for 22 similar offences, mainly deception, to be taken into consideration.

He persuaded a car dealer to allow him to take a £17,000 BMW, apparently to show his father in nearby Formby, having been on a test drive. While on the run in the car, he continued to use his warrant card to get funds, convincing strangers to give him £10 and £20. He was spotted three weeks later by police in Poole, Dorset.

The offences involved £5,874 and occurred between August and October 1997, but John Jackson, for the defence, said that "the total amount he obtained by telling lies to people was in excess of £40,000". Magowan, who had been based at Leyland, Lancashire, was described by a psychiatrist as a pathological gambler, the court was told.

Magowan was suspended in September 1997 and resigned from the force three weeks ago.

Oxford dampens May Day revels

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

MAY morning revellers in Oxford will find it harder to make the traditional leap into the Cherwell this year after emergency work to strengthen Magdalen bridge.

Scaffolding is being put up around the parapets of the 226-year-old bridge after a survey found it could give way under the weight of the huge crowd that gathers in the city at dawn on May 1.

The poles may succeed where police appeals have failed to stop students attempting the 18ft leap into 4ft of water. In 1994, 22 people were seriously hurt and one was paralysed.

Last year there were 83 jumpers, 70 more than in

1996. This year the Oxford Students Union will distribute posters to students asking: "If you were swimming in your local pool, would you jump into three feet of water knowing there was broken glass, shopping trolleys and used syringes there?"

The barriers around the parapets are designed to protect the walls from being damaged by the 10,000 who throng to hear May madrigals sung from the Great Tower of Magdalen College at sunrise.

Chief Inspector Phil Gormley, of Oxford police, said: "If the barrier was not erected then we may have had to close the bridge to safeguard lives."

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Exchange-trip pupils in danger of abuse

ALARMING evidence of the abuse of schoolchildren on international exchange trips has led the Home Office to fund the first large-scale study of the risks.

Children who are sent to stay with families in Europe have found themselves kept in cupboards, sleeping five to a room and sexually assaulted, according to a preliminary investigation.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, has agreed to fund a £20,000 scheme to research the most serious cases and draw up regulations that can be applied across Europe.

Home Office is to study evidence of neglect, ill-treatment and sex assaults, reports David Charter

ren of her host family in France.

□ A 12-year-old Spanish boy was placed with a family in Bath where the father was a serious sex offender.

□ A 13-year-old British boy spent his exchange trip to Germany in a squat.

□ An eight-year-old French boy became lost and bewildered after being given a pass by his exchange agency to catch two buses to school in East Anglia.

□ A 14-year-old Spanish girl witnessed domestic violence during her stay with a family in Surrey.

Detective Chief Inspector Chris Gould, of Avon and Somerset police child protection team, has won funding for the year-long research project after a nine-month initial inquiry. He said that the problems had remained

hidden because children in difficulties often did not know where or how to complain.

"At the far end of the scale you have got almost an infiltration of paedophiles into the system," he said. "But you have also got the welfare issues of children staying in cupboards under the stairs or hardly being fed."

"There is no specific child-protection legislation or regulation for this industry. There are no rules covering the recruitment of host families and no vetting of criminal records. In some instances these companies don't even do home visits."

He added: "The closer we looked, the bigger we realised the problem was. Although the majority of visits probably pass without incident, the system leaves children wide open to all sorts of abuse —

sexual, physical, mental and emotional — as well as neglect. A few organisations or schools try to impose their own standards for their clients but they are only voluntary guidelines, which are difficult to enforce."

Mr Gould said that schools should ensure that children could complain easily, such as via a telephone hotline. He hopes that the research will lead to strict regulations and possibly new laws. At the very least, he wants agencies to be accredited by a new international body, requiring them to carry out thorough checks on host families.

The British Council admitted that the student-exchange industry was poorly regulated. It inspects 350 schools, teaching English to foreign students in Britain and estimates that a further 700 are not registered. Liz McLaren, accreditation officer, said:

"There is a danger if there are organisations that nobody is checking. Anybody can set up a language school. They don't have to have it checked by anyone."



Pupils at work watched by Yusuf Islam and Stephen Byers. Mr Islam said: "Muslims also pay their taxes"

First day of term for state-funded Muslim school

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE Government hailed an historic broadening of faiths in state education yesterday as term began at the first publicly funded Muslim school. Stephen Byers, the School Standards Minister, watched pupils at the Islamia Primary in Brent, northwest London, as it formally became grant-maintained.

Islamia was founded in 1983 by Yusuf Islam, formerly Cat Stevens, the pop singer, who has campaigned for state support. A second Muslim school, Al Furqan Primary in Birmingham, becomes grant-maintained in September. Mr Byers said: "It is important that our multi-cultural society should be reflected in the variety of educational experience available to our children — underpinned by high quality and high standards."

Islamia's proposals had demonstrated "a commitment to delivering the national curriculum and providing equal access to that curriculum to boys and girls", he said. "Inclusion rather than exclusion is crucial as we expect all our children to become active citizens."

Mr Byers said that he had been impressed with the dedication of the school staff and

its trustees "who have long fought for the recognition the school has now achieved". He added: "They have created a popular, well-managed school that is looking forward to building on its success."

"Islamia starts its life as a grant-maintained school but we anticipate that, when the current School Standards and Framework Bill becomes legislation, it will then move into the voluntary-aided category of school. I wish staff and pupils every success for the future."

Mr Islam said: "It has been a very joyous day and shows we are getting some kind of justice for Muslims in this country, who also pay their taxes. It is only two Muslim schools in an ocean of thousands of Christian schools so it isn't going to change the world, but it will give a great deal of hope to others."

The schools join 24 Jewish and 7,000 Christian schools. There are 61 independent Muslim schools.

Islamia, which has a waiting list of 1,800 for 180 places, first applied to become a state school in 1985, but was rejected twice because there were surplus places in other Brent schools.

Dons study violence by going clubbing

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

UNIVERSITY researchers are to work in nightclubs as part of a £3.5 million study of violence in the home and in public.

The research will involve academics mixing with prostitutes, jailed killers, battered wives, doctors and probation officers. The five-year Violence Project, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, will include more than twenty different studies of particular areas of violence.

Many researchers will work as bouncers. Betsy Stanko, Professor of Criminology at Brunel University in West London, said that they would receive training, but their main qualification was that they were all physically big:

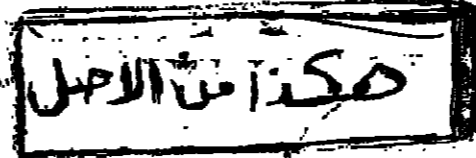
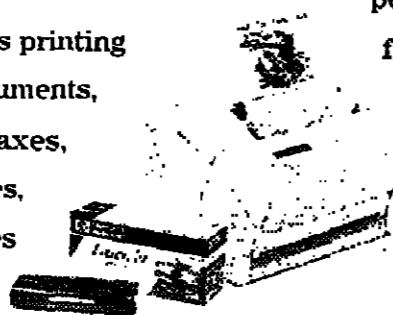
"This is not a programme of ivory tower academics."

Researchers would be trying to find out what kind of situations cause violence and how it can be defused. "The only way to learn about that is to go in there and have to do it," Professor Stanko, the director of the study, said. She added: "We'll be looking at body language, nuances of language, as well as training of staff."

The project will look at attacks on prostitutes, which will involve researchers accompanying them to see how they work. It will also examine attacks in prison, and violent assaults on gay men and women, as well as racial incidents.

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Nurses boo Dobson over staged pay rise

THE Health Secretary had an angry reception from 2,000 nurses yesterday when he tried to apologise for the below inflation, staged pay award they received this year.

"I am genuinely sorry that we decided to stage the pay increase," Frank Dobson told the annual conference of the Royal College of Nursing in Bournemouth as a voice from the hall called: "Why did you do it then?"

Mr Dobson said he hoped to avoid a staged increase in future but could give no commitment. The system was introduced by the Conservatives as a way of reducing the cost of public-sector pay awards.

Christine Hancock, the general secretary, said after the widely heckled speech: "Nurses were offended, insulted and hurt by the award. It felt like a slap in the face and I think they showed him how they felt."

Nurses were given a 3.8 per cent pay increase in February which was staged so that it equated to a rise of 2.7 per cent over this year and next.

The minister's reception was very different from 11 months ago, when the conference gave Mr Dobson a standing ovation after he promised reforms to pay and working conditions. This time

Minister's apology fails to appease delegates as last year's ovation turns to anger, writes Ian Murray

the standing ovation went to Betty Kershaw, the college president, speaking before Mr Dobson, for an attack on the award. "It's been a year when staging the pay award has sent the wrong message," she told him. "A message which says, 'We value you - almost quite, perhaps'."

"Let's make one thing very clear. Staging the pay award is not the same as implementing the review body recommendation. It slashes the value of the award below inflation. That's no way for this Government to show it values a workforce of professional nurses."

Mr Dobson sat smiling grimly as she added: "If you stage a pay award next year then I won't blame the nurses who will leave the NHS in even greater numbers. Forcing nurses to vote with their feet and leave the profession is a tragedy. And it's such a waste. Nurses love their jobs. They don't want to go but there's only so much anyone can take."

Mr Dobson told the conference that all public-sector

workers had been treated the same way. The system might continue until the economy was stronger.

The minister won some applause by announcing £14 million of funding to help train 20,000 nurses to prescribe medicines, something for which the college has long campaigned. But there were boos when he offered an extra £122 a year for the nurses' £5,000 annual training bursary. An announcement of £4 million to be allocated to encouraging back former nurses won derisory laughter.

The minister rushed through most of his long text, omitting paragraphs that were apparently prepared with applause in mind. He piled praise on the dedication of nurses to their work. As he finished he was presented with a balloon bearing the

words: "Frank, nurses are worth more". A row of young delegates held up the message "Students say no more staging pay".

When the minister agreed to answer questions, Tracy McFall, a nursing agency manager from Glasgow, condemned the Government for failing to address longstanding "chaotic shortages". Mr Dobson pleaded that Labour needed more time, saying the Government had only been in office for 11 months.

Afterwards Mr Dobson arranged a quick press briefing to try to put events into perspective. "In view of the fact they were very upset at the staging (I thought it was a very fair reception)," he said. As a member of the Government he accepted joint responsibility for the decision on pay. "At the same time I apologise to them for that decision."

While staging might happen again, he hoped that giving nurses more flexible hours, better working conditions and greater professional autonomy would make the career more attractive.



To the point: Frank Dobson, who cut short his prepared text, took questions from the floor despite heckling

'I'm on less than my daughter is'

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

FRANK DOBSON was told yesterday of a nurse with 16 years' experience who earns less than either her daughter or daughter-in-law.

Linda Bishop, 49, a district nurse with the Cardiff Community Health Care Trust, earns £16,000 a year while her daughter Sian, 23, who starts work in August as a police-woman, will earn £17,000 and her daughter-in-law Tracey, 26, gets £18,500 after three years as an art teacher.

Mrs Bishop's case was one which underlined how nurses

were undervalued, Betty Kershaw, the RCN president, told the annual conference.

Mrs Bishop said later she did not blame Mr Dobson for the staged pay award because "he is just a puppet of the Government". But she said: "I am so angry that everything Frank Dobson said today counts for nothing. He might feel that he likes nurses but I just find that very patronising because it is harping back to the old 'angel' image. An 'angel' I am not. You can't feed on fresh air."

Peggy Gow, manager of children's nursing at Southampton Community Health Services NHS Trust, told Mr Dobson that Labour had put children at the bottom of the healthcare list. When she asked, would the Government provide children's nursing everywhere in line with recommendations by the Health Select Committee? At present the services cover half the population. Mr Dobson promised to report back, but a resolution calling on the RCN to press the Government to implement the select committee report was passed.



Bishop: earns £16,000 after 16 years in job

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Freed terrorists can be jailed again, MPs told

Minister emphasises the conditions attached to the most sensitive part of Ulster deal. Philip Webster reports

PRISONERS released early under the Northern Ireland peace agreement will be on licence and will go back to jail if they resume terrorist activity, the Government assured MPs yesterday.

As it became clear that the early release of hundreds of terrorists was the most sensitive part of the Good Friday deal, Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland secretary, told the Commons that it was an "indispensable" part of an agreement that meant that the goal of lasting peace in the Province was "now in sight".

She insisted that the issue would be dealt with carefully, that the timescale for release would depend on the degree of genuine commitment to peace, and that the new arrangements would not apply to any prisoner convicted of an offence committed after April 10, the day of the agreement.

With the agreement attracting strong all-party support, Tony Blair confirmed that he would be happy to campaign in Ulster alongside William Hague and Paddy Ashdown for a "yes" vote in the referen-

dum planned for May 22. It was announced that legislation for the ballot would be rushed through the Commons tomorrow.

Ms Mowlam was greeted by cheers as she said that the agreement could be a turning point in Northern Ireland's history. David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader who was praised for his courage by all sides, gave warning of the "considerable difficulties" ahead. He emphasised that it was a political settlement for the Province and not "some milestone on the way to some other outcome" — a reference to Sinn Fein's claims that it was another step towards a united Ireland.

Mr Trimble, who fought off opposition from some of his own MPs to secure the backing of the Ulster Unionists' ruling council for the deal,

to ensure a new beginning for Northern Ireland".

Mr Mackay voiced concern about the decommissioning of terrorist weapons and sought confirmation that "no member of the new assembly will be appointed a minister until their paramilitary associates have been engaged in substantial decommissioning".

Ms Mowlam said that decommissioning was one of a number of things that had to happen in parallel to build confidence in Northern Ireland. Ministers in the new Northern Ireland assembly would have to sign up to the principles of democracy and non-violence if they were to hold office.

Earlier the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, who is heading the "no" vote campaign, bitterly attacked the decision of the three main party leaders to join the "yes" campaign. "They never came here to fight the IRA. They never came to the funeral of one victim of violence," he said.

Letters, page 21



Short calls for joint Iraq effort

Clare Short and Emma Bonino bracing themselves yesterday for discussions in London on how best to get humanitarian aid to the needy in Iraq. Ms Short, International Development Secretary, urged EU experts to put aside political differences, saying: "We will not help the Iraqi people by wringing

our hands at the extent of the problem, nor pointing the finger of blame, whether at the Iraqi government, at the sanctions regime or at different constituencies within the international community or at the UN." Signora Bonino, EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Affairs, was one of the speakers.

Mowlam is the right person at the right time

THE opaque character of the Good Friday agreement is a virtue, not a vice. The opposing parties in Northern Ireland are bound to read different things into it. It would be extraordinary if it were otherwise since neither side has been militarily defeated. That is why the agreement is not, and cannot be, a settlement. Indeed, it will only work if all parties accept its interim nature. The complicated new arrangements are intended not to end the historic disagreements between Unionists and nationalists, or even republicans, but to put them on a constitutional, non-violent basis.

That is why Mo Mowlam, with her robust and earthy common sense, is the right Northern Ireland Secretary for the times. She recognises the imperfections of those with whom she deals, and the incompatibility of their goals. She was candid in the Commons yesterday in admitting that most of the parties had compromised on structures and would "cherry pick in their heart of hearts" (highlighting those parts of the agreement which they support). Nobody, she admitted, "would be signing up to 100 per cent of what they wanted". The different, and conflicting, interpretations being put on the agreement do not matter provided the parties accept that the way to pursue their differences is by the ballot box and by argument.

A few weeks ago when the prospects of agreement looked remote, one of President Bill Clinton's senior advisers remarked privately that the key question was whether Sinn Fein was willing to behave like a normal political party. He was at that stage unconvinced. That issue is still unclear. It is naive to expect Gerry Adams at present to renounce the IRA's armed struggle of the past 30 years when he is trying to reassure his followers. That would guarantee an even deeper split among republicans and resolve nothing. What matters is how Sinn Fein develops in future and what the IRA does. Is it willing to behave as if the ceasefire is permanent?

In that respect, the most

sensitive parts of the Good Friday agreement are those concerning decommissioning of arms and release of convicted prisoners. Amid the general mood of mutual congratulation yesterday in the Commons, MPs were most worried about these aspects. Several Tory MPs protested about "politicisation of justice" implied by the release of convicted murderers merely because they belong to paramilitary groups.

Ms Mowlam is at pains to emphasise the safeguards in the arrangements, as the Prime Minister did in his letter to David Trimble last week. Mr Trimble was the sole Unionist in the House yesterday as both his opponents in the Ulster Unionist Party and Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionists were absent (in part, a reflection of their belief that what matters is opinion in the Province, not at Westminster).

For the Tory front bench,

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

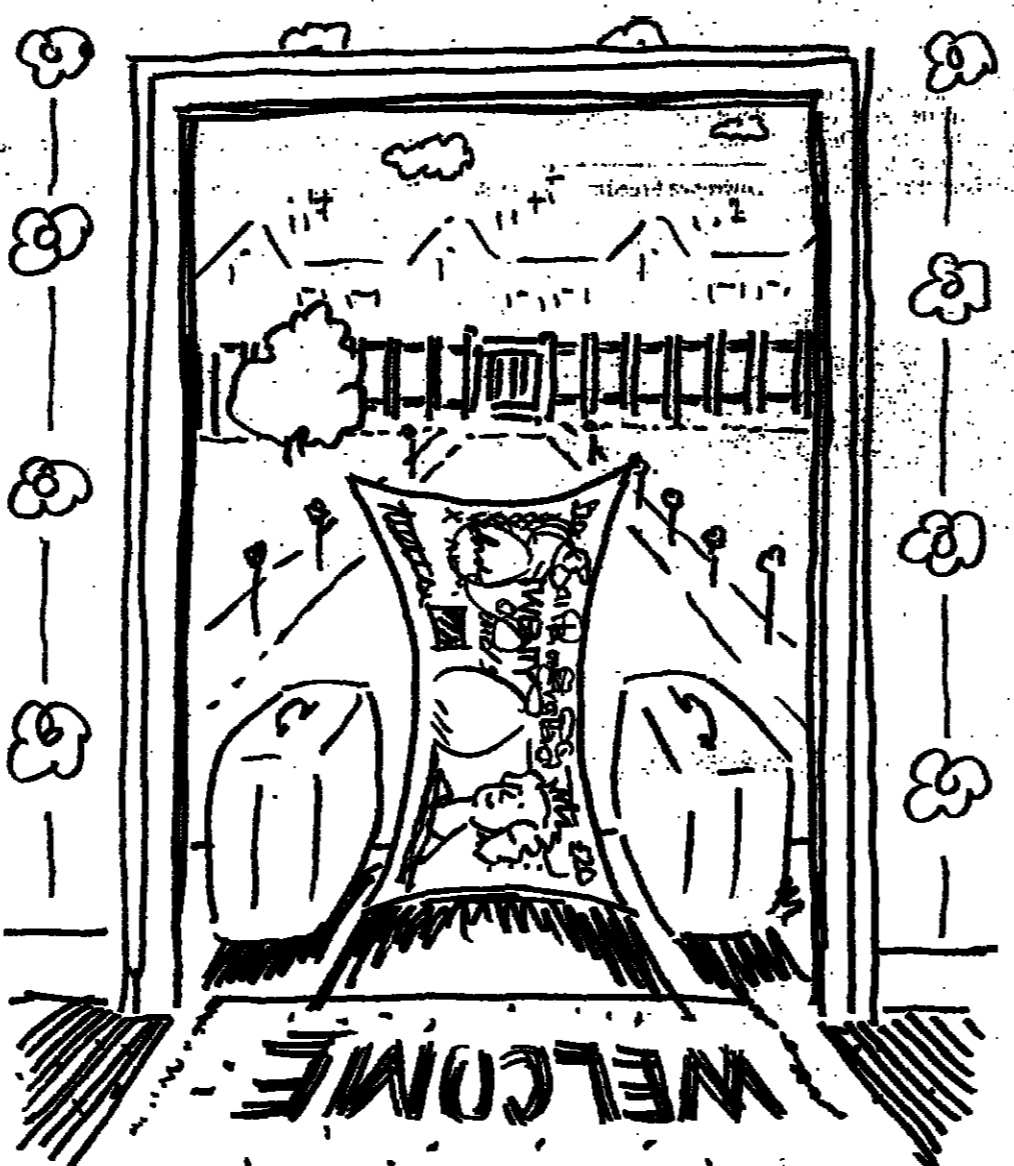
Andrew Mackay, whose reputation as a "safe pair of hands" has been tarnished by his absence in southern Africa for the past fortnight, supported the agreement. But he sought to firm up the linkages between participation in the proposed executive authority and the behaviour of associated paramilitary groups, notably their willingness to engage in "substantial decommissioning". He also emphasised the need to make release of prisoners dependent on the absence of violence by such groups.

No one expects a cessation of all terrorism. Fringe and splinter groups are likely to try to undermine the agreement. But a measure of the commitment of all parties to the Good Friday formula will be their willingness to distance themselves from such acts and to isolate the perpetrators. Otherwise, Sinn Fein will continue to appear as merely an IRA front. Ambiguities are inevitable, but not on the issue of violence.

PETER RIDDELL

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Arafat accepts Blair's plan for peace talks



Netanyahu scowled at Cook question

Style and skill win Israeli acclaim

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM

"WHAT is the difference between Tony Blair and Robin Cook?" asked a journalist of Benjamin Netanyahu, earning one of the Israeli Prime Minister's famous scowls and gaining no immediate answer at the doorstep press conference.

But it was not long before Israeli officials, relieved at the way in which the British lead-

COOK FACTOR

er's visit had mended almost every fence broken last month by his Foreign Secretary, were responding. "It is a question of approach, style, personality and good old diplomatic skills, which one lacks and the other has in considerable quantity," said one.

Yossi Olmert, ex-chief of the Government Press Office, was more evasive. "Tony Blair is one of the world's most prominent and promising young leaders," he said in *The Jerusalem Post*. "Even the selection of the clumsy Robin Cook as Foreign Secretary demonstrates his political acumen. With a diplomat like Cook by his side, how can Blair fail to loom as a giant statesman? Blair is just the type of European leader who can build bridges."

TONY BLAIR last night secured the backing of Yasser Arafat to host a conference in London next month which could pave the way for a historic settlement to the Middle East peace process.

Agreement was struck after hours of talks between the Prime Minister and the President of the Palestinian Authority behind the barbed wire and armed sentry points of Gaza City.

With Mr Blair scheduled to hold further talks today with Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, before he flies back home at the end of his five-day tour, the stage has been set for a breakthrough.

Telephone calls between government officials in Gaza and the White House cleared the way for American backing. Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, will chair the London summit with Mr Blair as host. May 4 emerged as the favoured date - exactly one year to the day before the American deadline for a settlement expires.

Israeli and Palestinian officials were last night united in praising Mr Blair for pulling off another diplomatic coup only ten days after the

FOUNDATIONS were laid for a settlement in Northern Ireland.

Mr Arafat and Mr Netanyahu have resolutely refused to meet to discuss the stalemate which has lasted for more than a year. While the distrust between the two men remains deep, neither wanted to be blamed for holding up the prospect of progress.

A British government official said: "The two men are suspicious of each other but

BRITAIN'S ROLE

they are both desperate for the deadlock to be broken."

An elated Mr Blair revealed that Ulster had been the key. The Prime Minister, on a walkabout through the Beach Camp, a ramshackle settlement for 40,000 refugees overlooking the Mediterranean, said: "There is no doubt that the success in the Irish peace process has helped clear the logjam. It shows I have achieved something concrete."

Dennis Ross, President Clinton's special envoy in the Middle East, is expected to fly to the region to build on the momentum generated by the Blair mission. But crucial

stumbling blocks remain. The British and Palestinians are determined that the American proposals for an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied West Bank will be part of the American discussions. Washington proposed a 13 per cent redeployment but Israel has refused to go above 9 per cent.

The Israelis would prefer to restrict the terms of reference to economic issues such as the opening of the airfield at Gaza and an industrial park at Karmi, which would create up to 35,000 jobs and generate inward investment. The talks today between Mr Netanyahu and Mr Blair are expected to focus on the US redeployment plan.

During the day Mr Blair and his wife Cherie were given a rapturous reception wherever they went. Amid extraordinarily emotional scenes at Bashir er-Rayess secondary school for girls, 500 pupils sang "Welcome, welcome Tony Blair." The skirling of bagpipes and the beat of drums serenaded the Prime Minister as he walked across the playground for a question-and-answer session with a class of sixth-formers.

The school was bedecked with Union flags. The children were so excited that the band struck up an hour before Mr Blair's armed presidential-style cavalcade arrived and was still playing an hour after it left.

Mr Blair was handed an embroidery picture from a pupil with the words "God Bless Our Home." The motto above the classroom door was symbolic. It said: "Try, Try, Try and Try And Never Give Up."

Mr and Mrs Blair went on to the Beach Camp where they were greeted by hundreds of people who lined the dusty streets and hung out of windows for a glimpse of the couple.

Lawrence Freedman, page 20
Leading article, page 21
Photograph, page 28



Tony Blair is escorted by Yasser Arafat to review a guard of honour on the Prime Minister's arrival in the Palestinian stronghold of Gaza City yesterday

Clinton keen to retain initiative

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX
IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA

BRITAIN is set to dominate President Clinton's packed summer schedule of foreign visits but he has not yet been persuaded to add Tony Blair's proposed Middle East summit to the list.

Madeline Albright, the Secretary of State, is planning to join Mr Blair for the May 4 summit in London, together with Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader.

But despite Mr Clinton's close involvement in bids to revive the stalled Middle East

peace process, he is unlikely to arrive in Britain until the May 14-16 Birmingham summit for leaders of the G8 industrialised countries. He will then travel to London for the May 17-18 US-European Union summit in London before returning home.

Mr Clinton is known to be anxious to visit Belfast, but is inclined to wait until after the May 22 referendum shows whether the province backs the proposals.

Mr Clinton's advisers are keen not to be seen to surrender the initiative over the

Middle East to Downing Street. Mr Clinton and Ms Albright are now under pressure from Mr Arafat to publish the American plan for Israel to surrender 13.1 per cent of the West Bank, presented unofficially to Palestinians and Israelis in recent weeks.

Peace hopes: Washington said last night that it expected the London summit to provide real momentum towards peace but indicated that prospects remained bleak.

Western diplomats in Amman have warned of growing instability in the strategic desert kingdom because the great majority of the population do not back the King's support for the 1994 peace treaty with Israel.

Hussein forecasts darkness and doom

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER

URGECY was given to next month's Middle East peace talks in London by a warning from Jordan's King Hussein that without progress, the whole oil-rich region could be plunged into "destructive darkness".

The King's doom-laden assessment was contained in a personal letter to Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister. It was written one day after the two leaders met for surprise talks in the Red Sea resort of Eilat last Thursday, and was made public yesterday.

Diplomatic sources said King Hussein's concerns had helped to convince Tony Blair, the British Prime Minister, of

JORDAN

the urgency of "kick-starting" peace talks that have now been deadlocked for 13 months.

The Tel Aviv daily *Haaretz*, which broke news of the existence of the letter, said the monarch had used it to voice fears that he himself might be the "first victim" of the continued stalemate.

This, it said, was not a reference to possible assassination, but to potential instability in Jordan - where more than 60 per cent of the population is Palestinian.

Abdullah Ensour, the Jordanian Deputy Prime Minister, said the King had "urged the Israeli Prime Minister in the strongest and clearest and most direct words, that this did not expose just one side to danger, but the whole region".

Mr Ensour was understood to have been referring to what many diplomats see as the real possibility that renewed Israeli-Palestinian violence on a large scale could spark a new Middle East war. This is because Arab states would feel the need to protect the self-rule Palestinian areas if Israel tried to re-occupy them, as has been threatened.

Western diplomats in Amman have warned of growing instability in the strategic desert kingdom because the great majority of the population do not back the King's support for the 1994 peace treaty with Israel.

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Havel's illness fuels Czech fear of future

THE serious illness of President Havel has plunged Czechs into gloom and prompted discreet questions about the political future of the country should the former playwright be forced to quit.

Mr Havel was reported to be in a stable condition last night in Innsbruck University Hospital where he underwent endoscopic surgery at the weekend. The emergency operation was carried out because of breathing problems: mucus was secreting into the President's weak right lung. The surgery followed the removal a week ago of about 12in of his intestine. Mr Havel was operated on for lung cancer in December 1996 and nearly died of pneumonia and other complications. He is expected to be under sedation until today.

The President's medical crisis could all too easily become a political one for the Czech Republic. General elections are due in June and if, as expected, the vote fails to produce a governing majority, it will fall to Mr Havel to

Possible successors lack stature of a leader still popular despite an actress wife's influence, writes Roger Boyes

broker a new coalition. His office has cancelled all official engagements until the end of next month. Only the most optimistic believe the President will be robust enough to play a political role by June.



Dagmar Havel: shields husband from outsiders

The Constitution does not give great powers to the head of state, but Mr Havel has artfully built up his position. With his regular radio broadcasts and speeches often critical of the previous Government of Vaclav Klaus, he won popular trust as a political stabiliser. This has become essential because of the republic's flagging economic performance.

Mr Havel's popularity has even survived his marriage, barely a year after the death of his first wife Olga, to the actress Dagmar. The former star of films such as *The Vampire of Ferrara*, in which she played a racing driver whose car turned her into a vampire by sucking blood out of toes, married Mr Havel soon after his lung cancer operation and has taken a

leading role in managing his health.

She called in a faith healer, seemed openly sceptical about the performance of the Czech medical service, forced him to cut down smoking and has shielded him from outsiders, including old friends from dissident days.

This has given her some reflected political status and she has been pressing for a separate budget to run her own office. Mr Havel is thus coming over as personally weaker — through ill health and the consequent importance of his wife — and yet politically more influential than ever. That imbalance is contributing to a feeling in Prague that the republic is heading for crisis.

Should Mr Havel die or have to step down, there are a few possible successors: Jan Sokol, the Education Minister and a fellow former dissident, may be a contender, as could Radim Palous, the former Rector of Charles University in Prague. But neither has Mr Havel's huge moral stature.



President Havel, whose medical crisis could easily become a political one for the Czech Republic

Campus wall of silence cripples murder trial

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

A MURDER trial unusual even by Italian standards opened yesterday, with prosecutors unable to produce either a motive or the murder weapon in connection with the killing of a blonde law student in Rome last year.

The "campus murder" has gripped Italy since Maria Russo, 22, was shot in the head while crossing a crowded courtyard at the law faculty of Sapienza University in Rome shortly before midday on May 9 last year. She died five days later. She was outgoing and well liked and had no known enemies.

Giovanni Scatone, 30, and Salvatore Ferraro, 31, both university research assistants, were arrested and charged a month after the murder. The prosecution claims that Signor Scatone fired the fatal shot, and that Signor Ferraro disposed of the gun.

ing the courtyard and Maria Chiara Lipari, the departmental secretary, testified last June that the three main suspects had been present in the library at the time of the shooting.

Gabriella Alletto, another secretary, also said she had seen them in the library, although her testimony was befuddled and contradictory.

Signora Alletto at first repeatedly told police she had not been in the library at all, but later changed her mind and said she had seen Signor Scatone "holding a black pistol by the window". She was unable to explain why she had not recalled this before. The murder weapon has never been found.

The discovery by plumbers in February this year of a Beretta pistol hidden in a cavity wall in a university lavatory caused a flurry of excitement, but ballistics experts said it could not possibly have been the murder weapon. Police said the hidden gun appeared to date back to Rome student unrest of the 1960s or 1970s.

'The accused are described as first-class minds with brilliant prospects'

But the accused — both described at the time of the killing as "first-class minds with brilliant career prospects" — have consistently denied any involvement. Also on trial is Francesco Liparota, 29, an administrative clerk in the law faculty, who is accused of abetting the murder by acting as a lookout. He also denies the charge.

The police complain that they have encountered a "wall of silence" over the past year, with staff and students "claming up" in a campus equivalent of the Mafia code of omertà.

Bruno Romano, professor of the philosophy of law, Maurizio Basciu, the librarian, two secretaries and a female student are accused of being accessories to murder and "obstructing the course of justice" by refusing to cooperate with the inquiry.

Traces of gunpowder were found on the window ledge of the faculty library overlooking

date back to Rome student unrest of the 1960s or 1970s.

One prosecution theory is that all three suspects were involved in a "absurd and dangerous dare" and had plotted to carry out the "perfect crime" in accordance with Nietzschean theories of the "superman".

A seminar on Nietzsche's theory — the subject of Dostoevsky's novel *Crime and Punishment*, in which a Russian student attempts to commit an untraceable murder but is betrayed by his own conscience — was held at the law faculty shortly before the murder.

It has emerged that none of the three suspects has any knowledge of firearms. None, however, has been able to provide a convincing alibi.

DNA clue to Riviera killer found on train

Rome: Police investigating a series of murders of lone women on the Italian Riviera yesterday met ballistics and forensic experts in Genoa to try to track down the presumed "serial killer" (Richard Owen writes).

The murders have caused panic on the Ligurian coast, and extra police have been deployed on trains and at railway stations. Six of the victims were prostitutes and were killed on isolated roads.

But the last two victims, both killed this month, were travelling on trains running along the Riviera coast between Genoa and the French border. In all eight cases the victims were made to kneel and were then shot in the back of the head. Police were reported as saying that in one of the train murders "bodily fluid" belonging to the killer had been found and that DNA from the fluid might help to identify him.

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Gaullists' feud over mayor shakes Chirac

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

PARIS city hall is facing paralysis because of a vicious internal power struggle, complete with plots, counterplots and mutual recriminations, which has further undermined the embattled centre-right coalition of President Chirac.

Jean Tiberi, the unpopular mayor and a close ally of the President, has vowed to remain in office despite what he called an attempted putsch led by a fellow Gaullist, Jacques Toubon, the former Justice Minister and another Chirac stalwart.

This month, M. Toubon, in a direct attempt to oust the mayor, announced that he and 30 other councillors were creating a new political group independent of M. Tiberi.

The manoeuvring and backstabbing since has reached extraordinary, and sometimes hilarious, levels: M. Tiberi, whose term is not due to end until 2001, condemned M. Toubon's "coup d'état", insisted that the former minister was driven by personal vanity and declared that he would do everything in his power to prevent him from taking over.

The rebels suddenly found themselves deprived of official transport and denied access to their offices. One Toubon ally has refused to return his chauffeur.

The two enemies have agreed to meet tomorrow but the acrimony is so intense that the meeting is more likely, in the words of one newspaper, to result in a declaration of total war. "The real problem here is the ambition of one man," M. Tiberi declared this week. In reply, M. Toubon has accused the mayor of spreading an atmosphere of "doom and defeat".

The Paris Hôtel de Ville, from which M. Chirac launched his presidential bid, has stood as a prime symbol of Gaullist might for more than 20 years, and the spectacle of two of his most senior supporters locked in battle is a sign of how far his power has been eroded.

M. Tiberi claims to have the "unshakeable" backing of the President; M. Toubon has let it be known that his defiance of the mayor was sanctioned from above. President Chirac himself has maintained an embarrassed silence, publicly expressing support for neither of the men and thus compounding the impression of weakness.

The centre-right coalition is still reeling from provincial elections last month when several renegades won office with the backing of the far-right National Front, and the Tiberi-Toubon feud has provided further evidence that even the most senior figures

on the mainstream Right are more concerned with carving out personal fiefdoms than maintaining party unity.

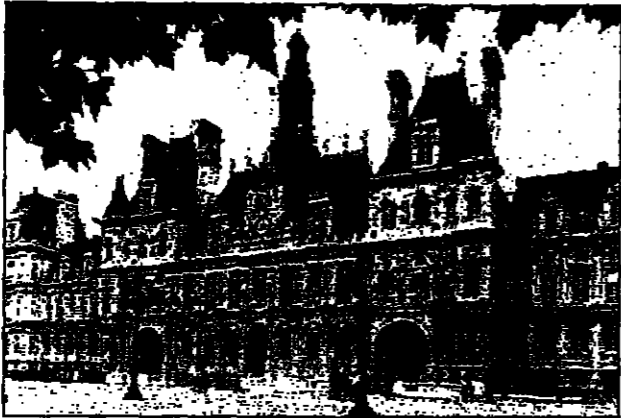
The animosity between M. Toubon and M. Tiberi dates from May 1995, when the latter was selected by M. Chirac to succeed him as mayor. During his three years

in power, M. Tiberi has been tainted by a series of corruption scandals and allegations of vote-rigging.

Unless M. Chirac moves to break the deadlock soon, the Paris municipal administration may come to a complete halt, with councillors unable to agree on legislation, but none of the President's options are attractive: he can call new elections, and risk handing the government of the capital to the Left; he can back M. Toubon, and face accusations of deserting an ally; or he can continue to support M. Tiberi, a discredited and perhaps fatally wounded liability.



Jacques Toubon, left, and Jean Tiberi are long-term rivals. Their infighting is jeopardising the conservatives' control of Paris city hall



Hôtel de Ville: Chirac's power base in Paris

deeper into the chaos that began last year when President Chirac mistakenly called legislative elections and handed power to the combined Left under Lionel Jospin. The conservative *Le Figaro* described the centre-right parties as "torn, powerless and often ridiculous".

In an increasingly desperate appeal for calm, Jean-Louis Debré, the leader of the Gaullist group in parliament, called on M. Tiberi and M. Toubon to heal the rift for the sake of the party's future.

But even outside the strife-torn city hall, there are signs that the Right is heading

Norsemen threaten to raze cosy Eurocratic world

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN Union leaders could face picket lines of Eurocrats at next week's euro-launching summit if European civil servants give their backing tomorrow to calls by unions for a strike over plans to reform their cosy terms of employment.

The unions, which represent 25,000 personnel in the Brussels Commission and other EU bodies, are threatening a stoppage to protest against a big shake-up in the antiquated system that governs recruitment, salaries, promotions and pensions

and effectively guarantees jobs for life. It is unclear how many would obey a strike call at tomorrow's assembly. However, a walk-out could disrupt the Brussels summit at the end of next week, chaired by Tony Blair, which will give the starting signal for monetary union to be launched in January.

Jacques Santer, the Commission President, promised the reforms last year in response to criticism, especially from Germany, over inefficiency and the high costs of the EU executive. The pressure for reform was raised by the entry of the Nordic states in 1995, with their culture of accountability. The *bête noire* of the unions

is Erkki Liikanen, the Finnish Commissioner, who is responsible for personnel.

Mr Liikanen was given a taste of the strength of resistance when the Commission's messengers and doorknobs staged an anti-reform strike earlier this year, claiming that he wanted to "Americanise" the bureaucracy.

Also driving the reform is Carlo Trojan, who has just taken over as Secretary-General, the Commission's top civil servant. Mr Trojan, a Dutchman, wants to foster a new culture of efficiency and scrap the rigid promotion system that gives the unions

accepted among many officials as vital to bring the EU civil service, a hierarchical caste, into the modern world.

The Greeks, Spanish and Italians have reformed their civil services. It seems the Commission is the last bastion of the old system, an official said yesterday.

The unions, which represent staff ranging from senior administrators to messengers and drivers, are furious over what they see as Mr Liikanen's desire to end cherished traditions, including their own powers. Among proposals feared by staff are plans to link promotion and pay more closely to performance. The Commission also wants

new rules on redundancy and sacking, practices that can at present only be applied after gross professional errors.

Backing for industrial action comes mainly from the lower-ranked and older Eurocrats. The plans are stirring fears over an end to the secure and well-paid existence of the *EU fonctionnaires*. The staff regime has changed little since the six-member Common Market set up the Commission in 1957 with high salaries, generous ex-patriate allowances and low income tax.



Santer: promised reforms last year

French cabbies choked

BY BEN MACINTYRE

PARISIAN taxi drivers are among the most polluted and unhealthy in the world, according to a survey published this week. One third of the city's cabbies suffer breathing problems, and almost 40 per cent say they have recurrent headaches or stomach pains.

The study, by the University of Paris and published by the French Association for the Prevention of Atmospheric Pollution, shows that most cabbies blame the city's chronic levels of air pollution.

Taxis are "veritable pollution traps", says the survey, which concludes that a city-centre taxi driver is likely to absorb twice as much pollution as a pedestrian, three times as much as a Metro passenger and six times as much as a colleague working in the suburbs.

The study said that the taxi drivers' problems could also be affected by stress, fatigue and poor posture. More than 40 per cent complained that pollution irritated their eyes and throats. But poor air quality alone cannot explain cabbies' legendary irritability.

Mass graves searched for war crime evidence

FROM TOM WALKER IN BANJA LUKA

FRESH exhumations of mass grave sites around Srebrenica, scene of the Bosnian war's worst massacre, were begun yesterday by forensic scientists. United Nations officials said they believed the teams would unearth "significant evidence" to bolster the prosecution of war crimes suspects.

Serb forces under the command of General Ratko Mladic overran Srebrenica in the summer of 1995, and up to 7,000 Muslims, mostly men, are missing, presumed dead.

Investigators are hoping that information gleaned from the newly uncovered graves can be used to strengthen the cases against General Mladic and his political mentor, Radovan Karadzic, who are charged with genocide and crimes against humanity. Both men are still at large; Dr Karadzic is thought to be in Bosnia still, while General Mladic is supposed to be in hiding in Serbia.

Yesterday's exhumations involved a multinational team of 50 forensic scientists. Protected by Stabilisation Force troops, their work focused on a plateau near the Brnice dam, above the town of Zvornik, 20 miles northwest of Srebrenica on the Drina river.

"It's macabre to say, but now is the exhumation season," said a diplomat working

for the Office of the High Representative. "It has a lot to do with the weather, but there are many other factors too, not least of which is the new climate of political co-operation in Bosnia."

He said more forensic scientists were at work at other sites, notably near the northern sector of the boundary line separating Bosnian Serb and Muslim-Croat territory. He identified a "constellation" of mass graves around the western town of Bosanski Petrovac.

Since exhumations began after the Dayton peace accord in 1995, more than 1,000 bodies have been found in Bosnia. The International Committee of the Red Cross has a list of 18,000 people missing from the war.

The exhumations are under the overall charge of Carlos Westendorp, the High Repre-

sentative to Bosnia, but are conducted by the International Committee for Missing Persons, supported by the Red Cross and Physicians for Human Rights. "The digging will go on for many years, and we get new reports of mass graves every day," said a High Representative official. "Some of it is accurate, some of it is very vague."

The exhumations around Bosanski Petrovac are expected to uncover Serb victims of Muslim massacres.

The Srebrenica operation is costing £17 million, with America, Britain, Canada, Denmark and Saudi Arabia the main donors. The town and the surrounding Podrinje region was predominantly Muslim before the war.

Dr Karadzic is said to be compiling his own account of his role in the war, which he is sending to the International Criminal Tribunal in The Hague. It is thought the Karadzic dossier is likely to implicate Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian political supremo and now President of Yugoslavia president, who Dr Karadzic claims gave him direct orders.

Dr Karadzic is thought to live in fear not only of Stabilisation Force "snatch squads", but also of assassins sent into *Republika Srpska* by Mr Milosevic.



Pubs deliver bitter blow to café society

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

WARM beer will make further inroads into what was once deemed hostile French territory this week with the opening of an English pub in Toulouse in southwest France.

The event caps something of a quiet French revolution as Anglo-Saxon pubs and ale forges ahead in what was a closed market. Paris now boasts about 40 pubs, more than three times as many as there were five years ago. Many are Irish, selling Guinness and drawing on widespread appreciation in France for all things Irish.

A growing number, however, are English. Paul Chantler, landlord at the Frog & Rosbif in Paris, said they had profited from the failure of traditional

French cafés to modernise. More than 30,000 cafés have closed in France over the past decade, and less than 50,000 remain, many trading at a loss.

"They have hardly changed at all, whereas English pubs have changed out of all recognition over the past 30 years," Mr Chantler said. "What is now needed in France is radical innovation."

Thor Gudmundsson, Mr Chantler's partner, said: "In spite of the supposed mutual antipathy between the French and the English, I think the two countries have a bit of a love-hate relationship. The French all want to wear *barbour* jackets and the English all want to live in the Dordogne."

About half of his customers were French people looking for an "English experience without having to travel" and the rest were "expats who want a taste of

home", he said. "The French don't tend to go to night clubs as much as they used to, but they want a convivial place in which to socialise," he said, adding: "French cafés suffer from the image of a surly owner throwing drinks down on to the table. We try to reach out to customers and be nice to them."

This involves, among other things, accepting the French habit of drinking relatively small amounts of beer — at least in comparison with the English — and holding long discussions over empty glasses.

The decision to open a Frog & Rosbif pub in Toulouse was an "experiment". Despite the presence of a large number of students and English people in the city, locals are used to cold drinks on café terraces and may not take to drinking warm beer indoors.

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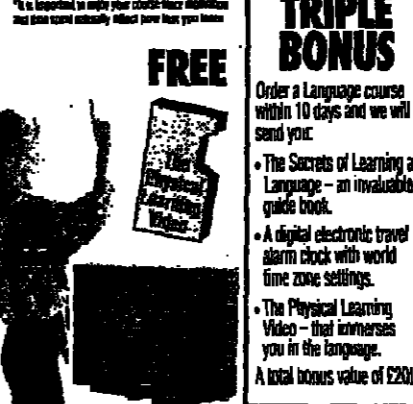
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Starr lawyers split on charge against Hillary

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

AT LEAST one draft indictment of Mrs Hillary Clinton for lying about legal work she performed in Arkansas has been written by lawyers in Kenneth Starr's office. But they are apparently divided over whether to go ahead and charge her.

Leading Republicans are still considering calling Mr Starr before Congress if the independent prosecutor submits a report alleging impeachable offences by President Clinton.

News G Gingrich, the House Speaker, is leading the movement to thwart any immediate effort to impeach the President, a process which Republicans believe is politically and logistically untenable.

Nobody wants to take this impeachment up

before 1999. "I don't see how there would be time and nobody wants to take this up." Instead, Mr Gingrich and his close associates have concluded that they should allow Mr Starr to present his evidence on Capitol Hill, thus giving the public an open forum in which to hear the charges brought against the President.

Formal hearings would require the House judiciary committee to draft, debate and vote on individual articles should Mr Starr's report, expected within three months, make such allegations against Mr Clinton.

Republicans fear that the weeks needed for the appropriation of money for hearings and to hire staff will be depicted as an overly partisan effort at a time when the country is otherwise running

smoothly. In political terms, the Republican majority wants to ensure that Democrats cannot retake the House in mid-term elections this November.

Congressmen are all keen to spend the full five weeks of the August recess on the campaign trail without entering such potentially damaging waters as impeachment.

"If we mess this up, we could lose the majority," said one Republican aide, who believed impeachment hearings were extremely unlikely

committee. Some believe that an "Oscar-winning" performance by Mr Starr could alter the political landscape and finally turn the country against Mr Clinton. But even this is fraught with political hurdles.

If Republicans allow Mr Starr to present his report, Democrats are certain to try to question him and demand equal rebuttal time for David Kendall, the President's lawyer.

Separately, prosecutors are said to have drafted at least one indictment of Mrs Clinton since her appearance before the grand jury in January 1996 when they concluded she had lied under oath.

She denied offering legal assistance to a failed Arkansas real estate project known as Castle Grande.

Mrs Clinton, in earlier sworn testimony to federal banking regulators, said she had done limited legal work for Madison Guaranty, the bank at the centre of the Whitewater affair which helped to bankroll the 1,050-acre project.

She also said she had done little or no work for Castle Grande itself. A review of her billing records, however, which mysteriously vanished and suddenly reappeared in the guest quarters of the White House two years ago, apparently contradicts her testimony.

The records show she billed Madison for 60 hours and spoke with the bank's officials 14 times about Castle Grande. Mr Starr's associates are split over whether they should pursue an indictment against the First Lady.

The decision will be made by Mr Starr and his top deputies and must hinge on whether there is both sufficient evidence to contradict Mrs Clinton's sworn testimony and whether prosecutors are certain they can win the case in court.

Ex-agent accuses Peru of wanting her dead

By DAVID ADAMS
LATIN AMERICA
CORRESPONDENT

PLAYING with her baby son, Luisa Zanatta gives no hint of the threat that is hanging over them from one of Latin America's most feared spy organisations.

Once an agent for the Peruvian intelligence service, she is now one of its targets — as far as the Fujimori Government is concerned, she knows too much.

In 1990 she was working as a cashier in a restaurant in Lima when she was approached by a regular customer. He was a member of the armed forces and told her the military was looking for bright young women to work in intelligence.

It was not really what the 19-year-old had in mind. She had set her sights on educating the handicapped. But Peru was under siege by Shining Path guerrillas, a ruthless group that had declared war on the state. So she let herself be persuaded. "I thought it was the patriotic thing to do," she said.

Now, eight years later, she is at the centre of a spy scandal involving allegations of corruption and abuse of power at the heart of the intelligence agency.

A sordid tale of sexual harassment and illegal telephone tapping, as well as torture and murder, the affair is deeply embarrassing for the Government of President Fujimori.

Fearing for her own safety, Señora Zanatta, 27, fled from Peru in December with her six-month-old son after learning that she was about to be arrested for leaking information to the media about crimes being committed within the intelligence services. Her former bosses have branded her a traitor.

Señora Zanatta is a member of Peru's National Intelligence Service. It is better known by its Spanish initials, SIN. Señora Zanatta worked for the Army Intelligence Service (SIE) — a branch of SIN — for five years.

From the safety of exile she claims that agents of Peru's



Luisa Zanatta and her son, now in exile. She said of the torture victims: "I have seen so many terrible things. I heard the cries. It broke my heart"

military intelligence services have routinely used torture and murder to dispose of suspected guerrillas as well as tapping the phones of opposition politicians and journalists. "I have seen so many terrible things," she said. "I heard the cries [of torture victims]. It broke my heart." When she expressed shock, she was advised to keep her mouth shut.

According to Señora Zanatta, her job consisted of listening to the wire-tapped conversations of politicians and critics of the Government. Among the individuals under surveillance, she said, were the former United Nations Secretary-General, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, now an opposition politician in Peru.

Señora Zanatta said a fellow agent, Mariela Barreto, was murdered last year by members of the intelligence service for leaking information to the press about the torture and murder of nine

students and a professor at La Cantuta University in 1992.

Another agent, Leonor la Rosa, who was also suspected of leaking information to the media, was tortured.

In Peru, the army and the Government deny any involvement in wiretapping or murder.

The army has taken some action in the case of agent La Rosa. A military court sentenced four people, including the SIE's administrator, Major Anderson Kohatsu, to four years in prison. But he was released after a few months.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Swimmer tells of doping

Berlin: An Olympic swimmer became the first former East German athlete to testify in court about the communist regime's sports doping programme. Bronze medalist Christiane Knacke-Sommer, 26, said she was pressured to take steroids. Four East German coaches and two doctors are charged with harming 19 teenage swimmers with anabolic steroids. (AP)

Fall from high

Detroit: A plane carrying 300lbs of marijuana crash-landed in a field after being followed by US Customs officers for 1,500 miles. Residents fled with drugs while the pilot lay dying. (AP)

Abacha gain

Maiduguri: General Sani Abacha, the Nigerian military ruler, has won a crucial party vote here which means he will run unopposed in presidential elections planned for August 1. (Reuters)

Napalm row

China Lake: A controversial shipment of napalm — a Vietnam War relic — arrived back at a California military base after an Indiana plant reneged on a deal to recycle it into fuel for cement kilns. (AP)

Police in dock

Paris: Twenty-four officers, 22 of them motorway police, have gone on trial in Perpignan for taking bribes, handing out bogus traffic fines, stealing from cars and smuggling spirits. (Reuters)

Santa cause

Helsinki: A 69-year-old Finnish drunken driver, who collided with a reindeer sleigh driven by a Father Christmas, escaped with a £170 fine as his surprise contributed to the accident. (Reuters)

Reds retire

Bonn: The Red Army Faction urban guerrilla group that shook Germany with bombings and assassinations of politicians in the 1970s and 1980s, announced that it has disbanded. (Reuters)

Sorry tail

Hauspaugue, New York: A scientist was sentenced to 30 months' jail for planting a fried rat's tail in a pack of McDonald's French fries. He hoped to extort \$5 million (£3 million) from the firm. (AP)

Paz dies at 84

Mexico City: Octavio Paz, the Mexican poet who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1982, has died aged 84. (AP)

Obituary, page 23



Starr: his draft is likely to accuse the First Lady

Chimps launched into custody row

By TOM RHODES

AMERICA'S 33 surviving astochimps are at the centre of a battle over who should look after the country's primate pioneers of space.

First recruited by the US Air Force in the 1950s, scores of chimpanzees grew up at the helm of Mercury space capsules that paved the way for the first American moon landing.

In 1961 Ham, a three-year-old chimp, graced the cover of Life magazine after he was propelled into orbit, preceding Alan Shepherd, as the first animal in space.

Since the 1970s, however, the air force has kept the chimps caged in buildings at Holloman air force base in New Mexico, occasionally

leasing them to medical researchers but not using them for space travel. The Government now wants to rid itself of the colony, and has invited bids from interested parties for the surviving grandees and their 110 descendants.

The process has sparked a conflict of custody in advance of the June deadline for bids as animal rights activists claim the process has been rigged in favour of those with intimate knowledge of the chimps.

Last month, in an attempt to win custody by animal rights groups, the Doris Day Animal League and the Centre for Captive Chimpanzee Care demanded that the Government should disclose the individual personality traits and detailed

medical histories of the animals, and sought an extension of the deadline.

The air force has since received a letter signed by 35 members of Congress alleging that its bidding process was biased in favour of a research group led by Frederick Coulson, an organisation that has worked with the animals since the 1970s and is the only one with access to the case histories.

Mr Coulson's foundation was recently charged by the Department of Agriculture with 24 violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act. The department claimed the group, whose lease for the chimps began in 1993, had failed to care for them properly.

Although Mr Coulson has discounted the charges, the Doris Day League is arguing that the chimps, heroes and icons for early NASA space research, deserve a better legacy.

"They have just been leased out like any other piece of military equipment," said Liz Lyons of the league. "These animals deserve better than that."

Activists now hope to raise \$10 million (£5 million) to build a sanctuary in Texas. The Centre for Captive Chimpanzee Care, created solely to bid for the chimps, has \$1 million ready to claim as many of the animals as it can afford as the deadline approaches.

US men rush to buy new impotence pill

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

BRITISH men could soon join thousands of Americans in a stampede to buy Viagra, the first pill to combat male impotence, which was put on the market here only two weeks ago and is now even available over the Internet.

The pill is proving to be one of the fastest-selling drugs in the history of medicine and hurried doctors are scribbling out some 40,000 prescriptions a day. Many patients are bypassing doctors altogether and ordering their doses on the Web.

Although the pill is awaiting approval from the European Medicines Evaluation Agency

for sale in the United Kingdom, there would appear to be no legal obstacle for British men ordering Viagra via the Internet and receiving the pills by post.

Swallowed an hour before intercourse, the pill boosts the natural process by which the arteries of the penis dilate. This increases the blood flow to the penile area.

Although an estimated 7 per cent of American men suffer from some degree of impotence, the sales so far suggest that Viagra is being sought by "normal" men who simply wish to enhance their performance.



Ham, the chimp, after an early rocket flight



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سكنيا بالاحمد

Angry farmers picket Premier in docks row

Roger Maynard in Sydney tells how airport siege won a pledge of strike mediation

A LEADING Australian politician, who supported the picketing of the country's docks, got a taste of his own medicine yesterday when he was imprisoned by angry farmers. The New South Wales Labour Premier, Bob Carr, was held hostage at a rural airport until he agreed to arrange talks with dismissed dockers, aimed at allowing the export of container-loads of agricultural produce. More than 100 farmers surrounded the airport building at Walgett, preventing him from flying back to Sydney. After two hours of heated debate, Mr Carr agreed to act as a mediator between the warring parties and was allowed to go. Earlier, farmers threatened to break through union picket lines to move nearly £100 million of cargo trapped in the docks by driving their own lorries onto the wharves. The dispute is the result of the sacking by the country's second largest waterside operator, Patrick Stevedores, of its entire union workforce two weeks ago and its replacement with non-union labour. Some 1,400 employees were dismissed as part of a drive for improved efficiency. Since the dismissals, Patrick has been using non-union labour to handle shipping at all of its docks, but the

ation official, Noel Kennedy, said: "I think Mr McGauchie would be knocked down in the rush if he called for volunteers among farmers."

Yesterday's tough stance by the farmers coincided with the granting of an injunction by the Victoria Supreme Court restraining anyone from obstructing Melbourne's waterfront.

The decision was handed down after an application by Patrick Stevedores to remove picket lines blocking Victoria's wharves.

But the assistant secretary of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, Greg Coombes, vowed to defy the order: "You can't injunct an entire Australian community. But that is effectively what the Victorian Supreme Court is trying to do, and I think it's just going to provoke a stronger reaction from the community," he said.

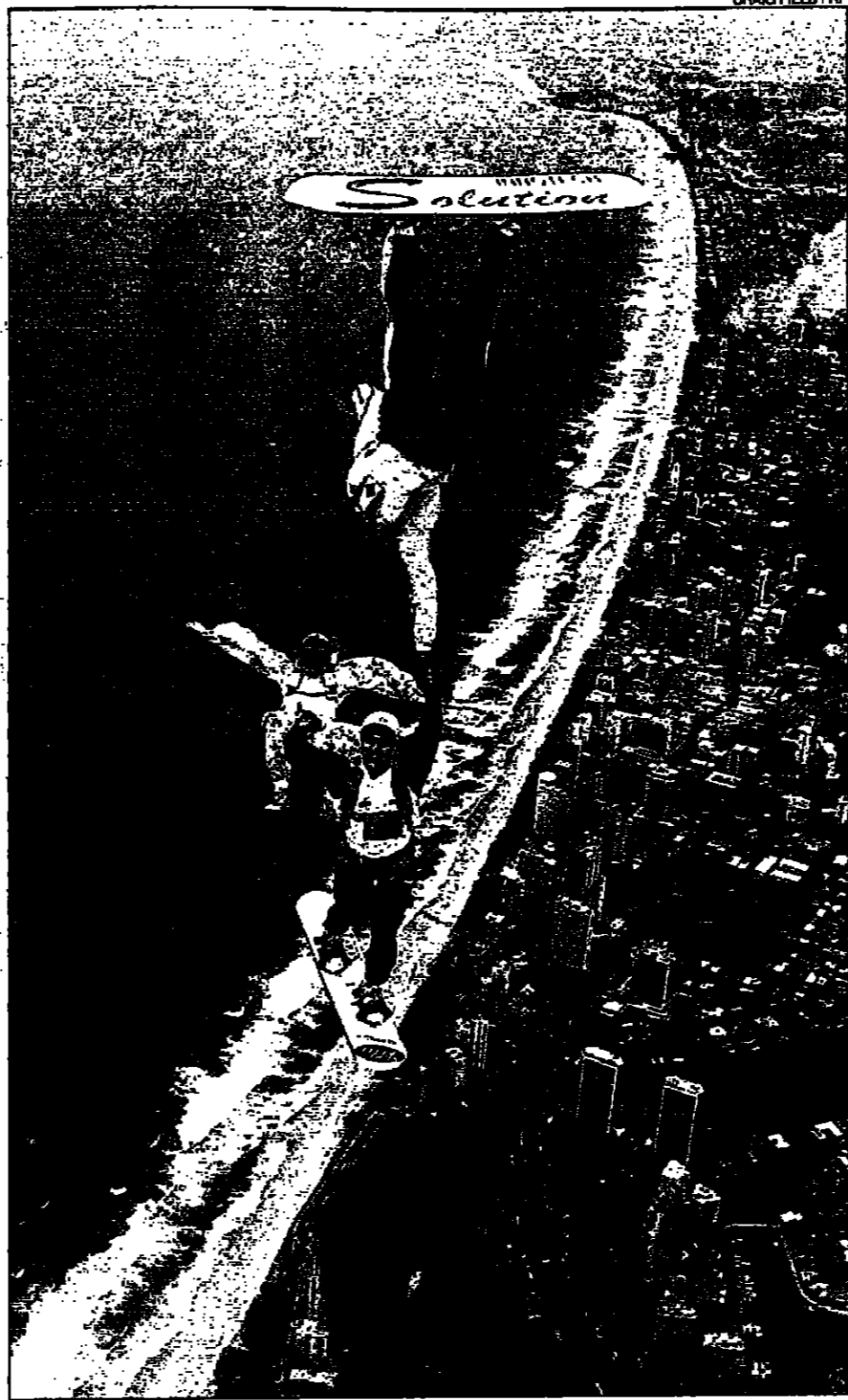
The national secretary of the Maritime Union of Australia, John Coombs, said the dispute was now based on civil rights. Protesters "will be encouraged to participate at a greater level because of this injustice", Mr Coombs said.

The picket lines have been mostly successful in keeping lorries and trains from dropping off or picking up cargo, leaving thousands of containers piling up on the docks. Only material such as iron ore and containers handled by the unionised P&O stevedores are moving off the docks.

At least 1,500 meat workers were laid off over the weekend in Victoria and New South Wales because slaughterhouses could not get containers to ship out frozen beef.

The Cattleman's Union president, Keith Adams, said there was "overwhelming support" from beef producers to get exports moving. And the president of the Queensland Graingrowers' Association, Ian Macfarlane, said: "We'll do whatever it takes to get the produce moving again."

The longshoremen's unions in the United States are planning a boycott of Australian meat and farm products.



High rollers: skiers dropping in over the Surfers Paradise resort beach on the Gold Coast of Queensland, Australia, as part of The Extreme Games event

Tibetans close to death in hunger strike

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

SIX Tibetan hunger strikers, lying on makeshift beds inside tents, are close to death after 42 days without food. Doctors say that the weakest among them could die at any time.

They appear determined to kill themselves unless the United Nations agrees to three main demands: debating Tibet in the General Assembly; appointing a special rapporteur to investigate human rights violations; and naming a special envoy to monitor Tibetan affairs.

The Dalai Lama, the Tibetan spiritual leader, appeared close to tears when he visited the four men and two women, whose only relief from temperatures of well over 100F (38C) comes from a few feeble fans. They appealed to him not to order them to eat and, for the first time, he effectively gave permission to carry on. "I consider hunger strikes unto death a kind of violence," he said.

The protest, being conducted on a pavement outside a central Delhi park, is organised by the Tibetan Youth Congress, which is frustrated by the failure of the Dalai Lama's "middle path" of negotiations and dialogue with China. While it would be almost unthinkable to defy the Dalai Lama, any attempt to halt the hunger strike could increase tensions within the movement.

The hunger strikers, aged 25 to 70, are barely strong enough to sit upright and lay either sleeping or staring through a fly net towards the many priests and supporters outside. One of them, Dawa



A Tibetan nun in Delhi prays for the protesters

Gyalpo, 50, who has a part share of a hotel in West Bengal, said in a whisper yesterday: "I am ready to die."

Like the others, he has taken nothing but water with lemon juice since March 10. They have goaded the UN into making two statements, including an appeal from Kofi Annan, the Secretary-General, to end the protest on humanitarian grounds. He noted that any decision on debating Tibet in the General Assembly rested with the member nations, not the UN.

Tsetan Norbu, president of the Tibetan Youth Congress, said the hunger strike would increase the patriotism of Tibetans. "We wanted to do something that would become part of the history of Tibet. It will be an example to future generations."

The affair is embarrassing to India, which is seeking to improve relations with China. The organisers fear that the authorities may take the hunger strikers away and force-feed them.



Dismissed union dockers cheering while on the picket line in Port Botany, Sydney, yesterday

China freed dissident in secret deal with US

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE United States secretly bargained for the release of Wang Dan, the Chinese student leader, as part of negotiations for President Clinton's visit to Beijing in June. His liberation on Sunday had been one of the last steps in an extensive deal brokered last month during a clandestine

meeting between three senior members of the Administration and Chinese officials in Beijing. Sandra Kristoff and Jeffrey Bader of the National Security Council and Susan Shirk, a Deputy Secretary of State, carried a detailed message to China during a weekend of intense negotiations, that were never announced in either country. In meetings with counterparts and

finally with Qian Qichen, the Deputy Prime Minister, they told Chinese officials that Mr Clinton would be prepared to visit the country in June, earlier than expected, and was willing to drop American support for a United Nations resolution condemning China's human rights record. The Chinese were told that the President expected a number of concessions in return. One was an agreement

to sign the UN Covenant of Civil and Political Rights; another was the release of dissidents. Human rights activists say China has used its most prominent dissidents as part of a diplomatic chess game to encourage compromise from the US. "Wang Dan was used as a hostage to be released ahead of Clinton's visit," said the Information Centre for Human Rights in Hong Kong.

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Cancer: what can you do?

Despite Linda McCartney's death, a healthy lifestyle and good genes are still thought to offer the best protection against breast cancer, says Anjana Ahuja

Linda McCartney was a model of healthy living. A vegetarian who neither smoked nor drank, she was thought to have conquered the breast cancer that was diagnosed in 1995. Despite her strict regime, she lost her life with shocking swiftness because the cancer had already spread beyond the breast when it was first detected. The same is true of most of the 14,000 deaths from breast cancer each year in England and Wales. The key to the cancer's deadliness is that it can develop without being visible to the eye, and usually causes no pain.

However, a tumour may be identified early as a small lump. This is why some doctors urge women to practise regular self-examination — if a woman becomes familiar with her breasts, she can recognise changes at an early stage. Women fortunate enough to detect their cancers very early can often look forward to a complete cure through surgery, radiotherapy and drugs such as tamoxifen.

A healthy lifestyle and good genes are thought to offer the best protection against breast cancer. Professor Barry Gusterson, from the Institute of Cancer Research (ICR), who will head the Toby Robins Breast Cancer Research Centre when it opens in London in the autumn, says that studies suggest the incidence of breast cancer could be cut by a third if people adopted balanced, low-fat diets, exercised routinely and drank little. The disease currently affects one in 14 women. He says: "Maintaining a healthy body weight is important, as is eating a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, and getting fibre from various sources. Cutting down on red meat is recommended, although becoming a vegetarian won't eliminate the risk."

Another compelling statistic is that the incidence of breast cancer in Japan, a nation renowned for its healthy, low-fat diet, is extremely low. But Japanese women who move to Western countries and switch to a higher-fat diet expose themselves to a higher risk. High-fat diets increase levels of oestrogen, the female hormone linked to breast cancer.

Whatever their diet, some women are more at risk from breast cancer than others. Women over 50, and those who have two close relatives with the disease, are deemed sufficiently vulnerable to qualify for a mammogram (X-ray) every three years on the NHS. Mammography can also be carried out privately.

Women under 50 may be referred for a mammogram if they started menstruating early (10 or 11) and had a late menopause (after 51); had their first baby in their late twenties or afterwards; have a family history of the disease, or have had benign tumours removed. The Pill has also been associated with a slightly increased risk of developing breast cancer early.

Why do we hear of women in their thirties dying from breast cancer? One reason could be that doctors are reluctant to send younger patients for screening.

Dr Margaret Spittle, a consultant clinical oncologist at the Middlesex Hospital in London and medical adviser to the charity Breakthrough Breast Cancer, says breast cancer is such a high-profile disease that younger victims get a disproportionate amount of publicity. "We should remember that it is not a disease of pre-menstrual women," she says.

Experts recommend regular breast inspections as well as a healthy lifestyle. However, some are wary of appearing alarmist. Dr Spittle says: "Young women are most likely to follow this advice, but the chances of them developing breast cancer are vanishingly small. Yet they often have more benign lumps, so they get frightened."

However, Professor Gusterson disagrees: "Since most breast cancers are detectable by self-examination, it is common sense that we tell women to do it."

Dr Ros Eeles, from the ICR, adds that women must be taught how to do it properly. "Women should see a nurse at their local surgery, or at the clinic where they have their cervical smear done."

Breakthrough Breast Cancer: 071-405 5111



Linda McCartney had a healthy lifestyle, but tragically her breast cancer was not diagnosed early

HOW TO CHECK YOUR BREASTS

Once a month after your period, examine your breasts. With arms by your side, look in a mirror and get to know their general appearance, shape and size. Be alert to changes.

Raise each arm in turn above your head, looking for changes in appearance. Turn from side to side, looking at the outline of the breasts for any changes.

Lie on your back with a pillow under your shoulders and head, one arm by your side. Using the flat of your hand, work around the outer parts of the breast in a clockwise direction.

Raise your arm above your head and examine the inner parts of the breast. Stretching the tissue makes detection of lumps easier. Also feel also along the top of the collarbone and into the armpit.

Source: The British Medical Association Complete Family Health Encyclopedia

Hospitals that wouldn't listen

Eileen Harley believes an NHS 'attitude problem' led to a failure to diagnose her breast cancer in time. Interview by Eve-Ann Prentice

Eileen Harley fears she may die of cancer because medical staff at two of Britain's leading hospitals failed to carry out an inexpensive and simple test until 18 months after she first noticed a lump in her breast.

A former gardener, now frail and unable to work after a mastectomy, chemotherapy and radiotherapy, she is especially bitter because the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson and the recently amalgamated Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals in London did not perform the simple biopsy when she first found the lump. The test takes a couple of minutes and would have revealed that she had cancer when the disease was in its early stages.

What makes her especially bitter is that she sees herself as a forceful personality very different from the awe-struck type of woman recently described as "dying of politeness" for fear of upsetting the medical profession.

Cathy Grizmer, chief executive of the Patients' Association, told an international conference on cancer treatment in Paris this year that "we have a lot to learn from the Americans. We should be more assertive... people with cancer should take the lead in ensuring they have access to the very best care available by becoming more knowledgeable and demanding about their treatment."

Eileen insists that she continually questioned her treatment and repeatedly asked for the simple biopsy, but it was not done until the cancer had spread. Instead, expensive scans were carried out even though they failed to provide a definite diagnosis.

Eileen, who is 47, is one of at least three women suing Guy's and St Thomas' for negligence over alleged delays in diagnosing breast cancer. One of them, Ruth Picardie, who was a journalist, has died, but her husband is pursuing her claim for damages. Another, Beth Wagstaff, aged 38, is seriously ill as a result of the disease spreading to her bones.

Divorced, with a 19-year-old daughter, Eileen believes that, because she has breast implants, some medical staff were reluctant to perform a "needle aspiration" biopsy, which entails inserting a fine needle into the lump and extracting a few cells for examination to show if it is malignant. But a report prepared in support of her claim for negligence says implants should cause no problems in the biopsy procedure.

"Now my prognosis is poor and I face having cosmetic surgery after the mastectomy," she says. "I feel very angry." She first discovered a lump in early 1995 and went to the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, where she was already registered as a patient for another unrelated medical problem. Scans and mammograms were performed, and she was assured that the lump was benign. Shortly afterwards she discovered another

lump that eventually began to grow through the surface of her skin, but still she was told there was nothing to worry about. "I was relieved," she says, "but the problem with the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson was that I was never referred to a consultant. I only ever saw nurse practitioners who were all very young. I never saw a proper doctor."

More than a year after discovering the first lump, Eileen visited her GP, who immediately referred her to a consultant at Guy's. More scans were carried out, but still no aspiration biopsy. "They seemed reluctant because of the implants," Eileen



Eileen Harley: bitter

says. She admits that she had the implants 19 years ago "for reasons of vanity" after her daughter was born.

She first visited Guy's in February 1996, but it was not until early July that her cancer was diagnosed by a woman breast surgeon she had never seen before. "She took one look and I could tell from her face that she suspected cancer," says Eileen. "By then one of the lumps was right through the skin and was raw. Within days I had been admitted for the mastectomy."

By then her cancer had spread to her lymph nodes. "I think the NHS is something to be afraid of," she says. "They have a huge attitude problem — they just don't listen."

In November, The Sunday Times reported that Guy's and St Thomas' had launched a secret investigation into allegations that doctors there misdiagnosed breast cancer. Asked to comment on Eileen's case, the hospital said: "Eileen Harley received the appropriate diagnosis and treatment from Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital Trust at the appropriate time — there was no delay."

Pressed on whether the hospital was challenging Eileen's timetable of events, a spokesman said it was not, but that each case varied as to how it was diagnosed and treated.

A national breast cancer support charity in Britain, Breast Cancer Care, has a free nationwide helpline, staffed by specialist breast care nurses and trained volunteers who have had breast cancer. 0800 245 345, 10am-5pm Monday to Friday.

When the pain of a peptic ulcer is hard to stomach

PATIENTS tend to divide the symptoms of a peptic ulcer into those which suggest the presence of a gastric ulcer, and those which indicate a duodenal ulcer, the causes of both are similar.

The term "peptic ulcer" describes both conditions. Those with gnawing pains coming long after their last meal believe the ulcer is more likely to be duodenal. If it starts within an hour or so, they will probably rightly assume that it is gastric. The term peptic ulcer can also be

used to describe ulcers which occur in the oesophagus (gullet) or, very occasionally, elsewhere in the small intestine.

The pain of peptic ulceration is felt in the abdomen and sometimes also in the back. Painful duodenal ulcers are likely to wake a patient in the early hours, and are often relieved by eating. Patients with peptic ulcers complain of burping, bloating, nausea and even vomiting.

One feared complication is when the ulcer penetrates through the wall of the stom-

ach or gut so that peritonitis results, or haemorrhage. The patient may vomit blood, which could be coloured brown by gastric juices. The bleeding may also become apparent at the other end of the gastro-intestinal tract.

For many years, doctors put a comforting hand on patients' abdomens, decided where the ulcer was likely to be, organised barium studies and arranged endoscopies, and if it was in the stomach, made certain it was not malignant. Duodenal ulcers are not malignant.

Once the doctor had made the examination, and studied the results of tests, prescriptions were issued with confidence but the cure rate was low. We had all missed the cause of 95 per cent of duodenal ulcers and 75 per cent of gastric ulcers.

The cause of the ulcerations, and very possibly of gastritis and cancer of the stomach, is very often a bacterium, *Helicobacter pylori*. It is present in 40 per cent of

MEDICINE CHEST

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

people's stomachs and frequently creeps into the duodenum. There is person to person spread and it is particularly common in the developing world. Another common cause of peptic ulceration is treatment with anti-rheumatic drugs.

MIMS magazine, which lists and explains the drugs available to your doctor on prescription, has clarified the means of eradicating *H pylori*. Usually three medications are prescribed simultaneously for a period of seven or ten days. My own preference, and it is no more than that, is Losec, 20mg twice a day, Klaricid, 500mg twice a day, and Flagyl, 400mg twice a day, all for seven days. The

combination rids 95 per cent of people of the organism. This regime is expensive, may not be very pleasant to take and is regrettably one of the few good reasons why the two daily glasses of claret are off the menu. Flagyl is incompatible with alcohol. The sacrifice is worthwhile, however, as after the ulcer heals, the gin and tonic is all the more enjoyable for not causing pain later.

There is good news from the manufacturers of Losec. Losec is one of the proton-pump inhibitors which are remarkably efficient at reducing gastric acidity and thereby removing the pain of oesophageal reflux or dyspeptic pain complicating other gastro-intestinal lesions. The disadvantage of Losec has been its expense, but it has been reduced in price so that its prescription costs are comparable to others in the group.

The other news about Losec is that it has been granted a licence for the treatment of

severe ulcerating reflux oesophagitis in children over the age of two. Children, like adults, suffer or can suffer from oesophageal reflux. The reflux is caused by the acid stomach contents flowing back into the oesophagus and causing so-called heartburn.

The diagnosis of an ulcer can only accurately be made by X-ray barium studies or endoscopy. People with persistent symptoms should stop buying antacids and consult their doctors. Any bleeding needs an immediate opinion.

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Lacrosse, Latin and love

Uppingham School discourages romantic liaisons, yet since 1975, at least 60 old boys and girls have married each other. Moira Petty reports

We're just good friends" is a phrase with special significance for former pupils of Uppingham, the £13,920-a-year boarding school, where amorous behaviour is vetoed. Since the sixth form became coeducational in 1975, at least 60 old boys and girls of the 400-year-old Rutland school have married each other.

Yet, in keeping with the ethos of the school which has a policy of discouraging romantic liaisons between pupils, the majority of the marriages were built on the foundation of strong platonic friendships. The formula is clearly a success, for only one OU (Old Uppinghamian) couple have subsequently divorced, a figure one tenth of national divorce averages.

Thus the omens look good for Nichola Whittington, 28, the Croucho Club's exhibitions organiser, and the latest OU to announce her engagement to a fellow pupil. At her wedding this summer to Rob Carter, a 29-year-old commercial photographer, she will be attended, as bridesmaid and pageboy, by the children of another OU couple.

"Rob and I were really good friends at school, both being independent and artistic people, but there was no romance then," Nichola says. The whirlwind romance began last October, although at first she failed to "realise" there was anything in it. Rob proposed in February. "It felt completely natural. I can be myself with him."

Nichola cites the "friendly village atmosphere" of Uppingham as being important in the fostering of close ties between pupils. Dr Stephen Winkley, the Headmaster since 1991, confirms this: "Pupils make very strong sexual friendships and they stick together more than is usual."

Uppingham disapproves of heavy-duty relationships between members of the 300-strong sixth form, where 40 per cent of pupils are now girls, and this message is hammered home to new girls in an address by the head. Where romance does arrive, the rule is that there should be no PDAs - Public Displays of Affection. "It's rather bad for morale to have people going around arm in arm," Dr Winkley says. "It gives a sense of ownership. One wants to get away from this. This is my woman. Get your hands off

attitude. I lecture pupils on the inadvisability of exclusive relationships. They're hard to manage if they go wrong. There's no escape from the other person. A lot of girls take the view that they'll postpone those relationships until they get to university. It takes the pressure off them."

Dr Winkley says his guidance is more overt than may have been the case before his time at the school. Uppingham, set in 135 acres in the heart of the market town of the same name, offers a huge range of activities, seven days a week, and Dr Winkley advises pupils to "be busy" and let their social life grow naturally out of their interests. "They don't feel they have to pair off as soon as possible. Nor do we go round saying

as a prefect. I found a couple romping in the bushes. Elsewhere, I was asked what I thought about being on the Pill. I hardly even knew what the Pill did."

"The rules at Uppingham made us feel safe. They weren't inflicted on us. Our housemaster warned us how devilish boys could be. He said anything could happen within three minutes. "If our housemaster noticed something, it would be brought up over lunch or tea. He would say, 'There were too many of you behind the five courts last night. We used to call that place Snog Alley. Sometimes people would go off to Communion knowing it would be dark on the way back from chapel.'"

But most of her time in the company of the boys was both innocent and enjoyable. She sees it as a mark of her happiness at the school that she "ate masses". "We used to joke about how many loaves of bread we got through in our house."

Sarah did art with her husband-to-be and remembers his shiny shoes and black umbrella but they were never more than friends then. "He says now that he was quite attracted to some of the girls but didn't do anything about it because there was so much else to do. At the leavers' ball I was standing feeling like a gooseberry and he asked me for the last dance. He walked me back to my house but didn't try anything on, which wouldn't have been welcome then anyway."



Traditional values: "I felt happy with the rules because they were there to protect us, not restrict us. If you wanted to be wayward, you had to work at it."

In 1988, after Sarah had graduated from Edinburgh University and Julian from Cirencester Agricultural College, he popped in to see her at Liberty where she was working. She was in a serious relationship but began going out with Julian. "Our first real date was to go to Italy to buy a car engine. Things moved a lot faster than with other boyfriends. It's rare that you've shared a lot of your early life with a boyfriend and we could trust each other."

They married in 1991 and live near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, where Julian farms and runs a prop hire business. They have a son, Oliver, 3, whose name is down for Uppingham. Three of his four godparents are OUs.

Margie and Tim Malt-house, both 38, who live in Teddington, West London, are one of the rare OU married couples whose relationship began at school. "It was knee-knocking romantic," Margie says. "I remember running 20 minutes to his house to see him. We'd have a coffee at break time or go to the bus stop together. We were all experimenting, some more than others. I felt happy with the rules because they were there to protect us, not restrict us. If you wanted to be wayward, you had to work quite hard at it."

She remembers feeling "self-conscious when we were all sweaty after lacrosse. Trampolining was definitely dodgy. We were glad to have a girly house to retreat to. We were encouraged to have boys as friends - although they did put the Brut on with a hosepipe. At university, you could spot the girls from single-sex schools."



Head: Dr Stephen Winkley

Tim and Margie's relationship survived his gap year travelling and their time at different universities. "I made sure I never stayed at parties until the end," Margie says. They married in 1985 and have three children, Holly, 7, Luke, 5, and Joseph, 4. "We're still speaking," she says. "I think principles like fidelity and loyalty came from the school and also being realistic about relationships."

Tim, a surveyor, recalls that among the boys, the charismatic figures with girlfriends would be "looked up to". However, the strict rules made for intrigue: "You were never quite sure who was going out with whom."

Giles Walter, 39, a property developer, now married to Fiona, who was in the year below him at Uppingham, says that decency and good manners were encouraged in relationships. "I remember seeing Fiona back to her house one evening. I was walking on the inside. My housemaster crept up behind me and picked

me up physically and moved me so that I was on the outside beside the kerb.

"Our mothers knew each other but Fiona and I were just friends at school. She was a bit of a tennis groupie and went out with the tennis captain. Girls were only just arriving when I was at Uppingham. Some of the boys thought, 'We're having fun', but I was more interested in not flunking my A levels."

Giles kept in touch with Fiona: "If I was lacking a partner I'd turn to her. One day she rang up and said, 'Guess who's getting married?' The heart sank, but it wasn't her. I thought I'd better do something about it. It seemed natural for our relationship to become a romantic one."

They married in 1985 and live near Lincoln. Daughters Camilla, 10, and Lucy, 8, are



Clear-headed: the Hibberts

registered for the sixth form. "I get a warm feeling when I go back," Giles says. "It is a traditional school which imposed traditional values on us. Five years ago, they were going to bring in a central dining room then they realised

that small groups eating together in their own house was important. It gave a sense of family."

Julian Hibbert, 31, a farmer, had left Uppingham before Philippa, now his wife, began there. Julian left to do a year's practical work on his parents' farm before going to Cirencester Agricultural College.

But there were links: Julian's younger brother, Charles, was in Philippa's year and was a close friend of her twin brother, Christopher Lamb. Philippa, 27, recalls that serious relationships were not approved of and that she would not have "messed" with her "fierce but fair" housemaster. "You wouldn't have dared kiss a boy. I am glad we weren't allowed to do anything. We felt safe and the boys wouldn't have tried anything on."

Philippa's best friend was a boy. "We'd have the same kind of gossip chats girls have with each other. There were lots of platonic friendships between boys and girls which stood us in good stead."

She met Julian at a mutual friend's 21st birthday party in Spain in 1989 and they married four years later. "Uppingham taught us to take our time. I was quite clear-headed and knew what I wanted." The couple live in Ashbourne, Derbyshire, with their children, George, 2, and Annabel, nine months. Philippa believes that the moral framework within which Uppingham operates has been vital in their happy marriage. "It was a friendly school which taught us to stick together and work together. I am sure it's played a part in all these happy marriages."

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OBITUARIES

THE RIGHT REV TREVOR HUDDLESTON

The Right Rev Trevor Huddleston, KCMG, died yesterday aged 84. He was born on June 15, 1913.

In the opinion of Nelson Mandela, no citizen of Great Britain did more for the black people of South Africa than Trevor Huddleston...

Huddleston thus returned to South Africa as a hero, after an absence of 35 years, during which he had not ceased to tell the world the truth about apartheid...

Ernest Urban Trevor Huddleston was born in Bedford. He came of a family with strong religious attachments...

He went on to Wells Theological College and was ordained in 1937. After two and a half years as a curate at the Anglo-Catholic power

house of St Mark's, Swindon, he joined the Anglican Order of the Community of the Resurrection at Mirfield in 1939...

In 1943 he was sent to South Africa to be priest-in-charge of the Community of the Resurrection's mission in Sophiatown...

These included a formidable charm and natural authority which could work on policemen as well as politicians...

His book describing both his experiences and the faith on which his actions were based was called Naught for your Comfort...



was published in 1956 after the script had been smuggled out of South Africa. Immediately on its publication he was withdrawn from South Africa...

This controversial action - much resented by Huddleston himself, who had a real tussle with conscience over his vow of obedience...

wished to avoid having its South African Provincial thrown into prison - though some still believe that Huddleston in jail might have been an even more eloquent witness...

For the next five years Trevor Huddleston lived and worked in England based on the Community at Mirfield, preaching and exhorting the British public to harden its attitude towards South African racism...

huge rural diocese in Tanzania, where he went in 1960. The years that followed were as happy as any in his life...

Appointed suffragan Bishop of Stepney by Robert Stopford in 1968, he inevitably found it difficult to

settle into a London where the average attitude to the gospel, and even more to the Church, was one of indifference...

In addition, he had to struggle with diabetes and with other causes of ill-health. There were, therefore, medical as well as temperamental reasons why he was not asked to undertake the full responsibilities of an English diocesan...

Huddleston's national stature rose above such setbacks. Not only did he continue to speak out in defence of Africans through the Anti-Apartheid Movement...

In 1978 he was chosen to be Bishop of Mauritius and later elected the first Archbishop of the Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean...

When the time for retirement came in 1983, he based himself on St James's, Piccadilly, a centre for radical thought and religious experiment...

Huddleston had made a brief return to South Africa, announcing that he intended to die there, once Nelson Mandela had been installed as President...

OCTAVIO PAZ

Octavio Paz, poet, essayist and former Mexican Ambassador to India, died on April 19 aged 84. He was born on March 31, 1914.

IF THE precise standing of Octavio Paz among 20th-century poets will continue to be a matter of debate, it is indisputable that the overall weight of his literary achievement...

As an essayist and commentator, seen at his most powerful in El laberinto de la soledad, with which he staked his claim to a place on the international literary stage...

He wrote always with great honesty (and sometimes puzlement) of the paradoxes and contradictions inherent in a society which has buried an ancient Indian past under an invasive Spanish culture...

As a poet, he is at his best in his early verse. In it Paz was concerned to explore the nature



of the erotic - something he did with great explicitness. For Paz, the sex act is the only truly liberating force available to modern men and women...

His most celebrated poem, the 584-line Piedra de sol (1957, translated as Sun Stone

in 1961 and often since) expresses his gospel with naked force: Better to venture and eat the poisoned bread, better adultery on beds of ashes the ferocious passions, and its venomous ivy... than tread the mill that grinds out into nothing the substance of our life...

Octavio Paz was born and brought up in a large, semi-detached house on the outskirts of Mexico City. His grandfather was a writer and journalist who campaigned for the rights of Indians when this was not a fashionable thing to

be doing. When Zapata and Pancho Villa launched their revolution against the dictator Porfirio Diaz in 1910, his father became Zapata's secretary and eventually diplomatic representative in Washington...

When the family was compelled to return to Mexico, life was not easy for them, but Paz was later able to study law at the National Autonomous University in Mexico City. As a teenager he had already read widely in the world's literatures...

During the Second World War Paz edited magazines in Mexico City and visited the United States. In 1945 he entered Mexico's diplomatic service and had posts which took him to Paris (1946 and

1959); Delhi (1952); Tokyo (1952); and India again, where he was Ambassador from 1962 to 1968. In the last two postings he immersed himself in oriental poetry and painting and in the Taoist and Buddhist classics...

His first major postwar work was El laberinto de la soledad (1950, tr. The Labyrinth of Solitude: Life and Thought in Mexico, 1961). A prose work, it explored the nature of the forces which have gone to forge modern Mexico: beginning with the collision between 'raping conquistador' and 'violated Indian mother'...

Paz never lost his admiration for Zapata, over and above all the other revolutionary Mexicans for his lack of ideological fanaticism, his love of the past and his adherence to the simple goal of land reform. Paz's prose revealed his own confusions, torn as he was between a reverence for the remote past and the idea of the necessity of modern reformist government...

In 1976 Paz founded Vuelta, one of Latin America's most influential literary periodicals. Lately he lived quietly in a flat in a tower block, high above the teeming life and noise of the streets of Mexico City. When asked why he did not move to a leafy suburb, he always replied: 'I'm Mexican. I adore my city. It was beautiful - and it's going to be beautiful again, someday.'

Linda (Lady) McCartney, photographer and vegetarian campaigner, died of cancer on April 19 aged 56. She was born in New York on September 24, 1941.

WHEN Paul McCartney, the last bachelor Beatle, met and married an American photographer, the press turned on his wife, Linda, and on John Lennon's wife, Yoko Ono, for splitting up the world's greatest pop group...

During the 1960s she had specialised in photographing rock musicians, becoming one of Rolling Stone magazine's first photographers, and producing memorable images of Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, the Doors, the Beatles and others. Her photographs have since been exhibited at the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Royal Photographic Society...

During the 1980s and 1990s she campaigned for vegetarianism, of a fluffy kind, catching the attention of the media with stunts such as buying a hugely inflated turkey at a huge price to save it from the Christmas table...

Linda Louise Eastman was born into a wealthy New York family. Her father was a successful copyright lawyer with many clients from the showbusiness world, and it was not unusual for the family to entertain Hoagie Carmichael or Tommy Dorsey to dinner...

When she was 18 her mother was killed in an air crash. Devastated, she rushed into marriage with a fellow college student, Melvin See. The marriage was short-lived, ending when he moved to Africa...

Moving to Tucson, Arizona, she took a course in photography. She proved to have a natural talent, and although she did not finish the course she never stopped taking pictures. Her big break came in 1966 when she secured exclusive pictures of the Rolling Stones...



on a yacht on the Hudson River, she stole it and turned up with her own camera. Of the many photographers present, she was the only one allowed onto the boat. Her pictures were widely used, and offers of further work followed...

After the break-up of the Beatles, Paul formed a new band, Wings, to record his music and so that he could play in public again without the pressure of Beatlemania...

Her love of cooking translated into a series of books, including Home Cooking (1989), Linda's Kitchen (1995) and New Home Cooking (1994), which have sold in hundreds of thousands...

Linda McCartney is survived by her husband, Paul, and their four children: Heather, Mary, Stella and James.

PERSONAL

PERSONAL section containing various advertisements for tickets, musical instruments, flatshare, and flights.

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY, FLIGHTWISE, and other flight-related advertisements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, JETLINE, and other general advertisements.

CHURCHILL'S STAIRLIFT advertisement featuring a picture of a man and text about stairlift services.

John Young introduces a two-page report on companies that have won prizes for export, technological and environmental achievement

The pacesetters that fuel Britannia

Back in the so-called Swinging Sixties, Britain was enjoying a hedonistic and decidedly dubious cultural renaissance. A generation or more before the latest, and perhaps still more artificial, attempt to project an image of a "Cool Britannia", British fashions, theatre and popular music were being acclaimed with something akin to adulation.

Their curiosity stimulated by glowing reports in newspapers and magazines abroad, tourists flocked to London to see how the drab, staid old capital had reinvented itself as the glittering centre of all that was new, progressive and exciting. It was, of course, largely a sham.

Britain was plagued by recurrent economic crises; industry was outmoded and overmanned, prey to incompetent management and restrictive labour practices; and Carnaby Street and the Beatles could draw only the thinnest of veils over the fact that the country was rapidly losing ground to more industrious and inventive rivals. The whole mighty trading edifice on which imperial prosperity had been built was on the brink of collapse.

The introduction of the Queen's Awards to Industry, as the scheme was originally known, was an acknowledgement of the desperate need for Britain to regain its reputation for innovation and inventiveness and to restore its ability to compete in world markets. The hope was that the new awards would recognise success and stimulate companies of all sizes to discover a new pride in themselves and in their products.

Royal endorsement was more than mere token approval, since it was the Duke of Edinburgh who chaired the committee that set out the criteria. The first awards were made in 1966 to 115 of more than 1,000 applicants.

Unlike many innovations, the scheme was an immediate success. An award, it was made clear, was not just a pat

on the back for the bosses but to be shared by all the workforce.

Successful applicants were allowed for the next five years to fly a special flag and to display the appropriate emblem on letterheads, advertising, packaging and uniforms. Applications in the second year rose by more than 60 per cent. A decade later a review committee, with the Duke again at the helm, decided it was time to divide the awards into two categories.

The first, and still easily the largest, would acknowledge substantial and sustained increases in export earnings that could be classed as outstanding in terms of the products or services concerned and the size of the applicant's operations. Performance would normally be measured over three years, but earlier records might be taken into account.

The second category would reward achievements in increasing efficiency and in applying new and advanced technologies. Although the word export was not specified, the implication was that such improvements would help to make British products more competitive in world markets.

In 1992 a third category was introduced - for environmental achievement. This would have to be linked to commercial success and would demand rather more than a company merely "cleaning up its act".

This year's awards bring the total to 4,065 from 43,903 applications. Many firms have consistently won awards over the years, and on this occasion Rolls-Royce has achieved success in all three categories.

Equally gratifying, however, is that every year produces a crop of first-time winners, some of them very young companies, new to exporting or with no previous claim to being innovators. Among this year's award winners, 71 per cent are winning for the first time, half of them at their first attempt.

Interest in the scheme has fluctuated over the years, the largest number of applicants,



Aircraft engines at the Derby HQ of Rolls-Royce, which dominates the Queen's Awards

1,860, being in 1978. This year has seen a sharp fall, from 1,724 to 1,214, although the number of awards, 133, is only one fewer than in 1997. In recent months there have

been complaints from industrialists that the current strength of sterling is damaging Britain's competitive position and endangering export earnings. But suggestions that

there might be a connection between this and a drop of a third in applications for export awards are discounted by officials of the scheme, who say that periodic "blips" are quite normal.

The next couple of years will show if they are right. It would be unfortunate if British industry were to lose interest in the distinction the awards confer at the very time that they need every stimulus to improve their performance in an increasingly difficult and unpredictable marketplace.

The precise effect of the Queen's Awards in raising Britain's economic profile is impossible to quantify. Any company's targets are primarily success and profitability, and not the winning of a medal. But when it achieves those targets, we all benefit, so that an award is a mark of gratitude as well as of achievement.

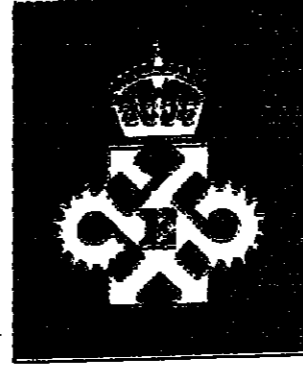
Rolls-Royce, the aerospace group, has achieved the rare distinction of winning an award in all three categories.

The Export Award goes to Rolls-Royce Commercial Aero Engines for sales of the Trent 700 and 800 aero engines that provide the powerful thrust for the latest generation of large twin-jet aircraft, the Airbus A330 and the Boeing 777. All Trent deliveries from 1994 to 1996 were export business, the main markets being the Asia-Pacific region, North America, the Middle East and Europe. The division employs just over 4,000 people.

The Technological Achievement Award goes to the engineering and technology division, which has more than 16,000 employees, for improving the performance of gas turbines at high temperature in the Trent 800 engine.

On a hot day the engine thrust produces temperatures well above the point at which materials used in engine blades melt. Developments by Rolls-Royce involve cooling

turbine components with air from a compressor and by transferring heat from the blades. This means the engines can produce increased power, so that short runways at high altitude can be used on hot days. Increased efficiency means aircraft can fly farther carrying more weight, and planes are reliable on long-distance flights.



The Environmental Achievement Award goes to the aerospace division, which has 26,500 staff. It has developed a combustion chamber for jet engines that reduces the emission of polluting gases. That means Rolls-Royce can offer engines that easily meet proposed environmental standards.

The combustion chamber is available on the current range of engines but it can also be fitted to some existing engines. Stan Todd, the deputy managing director of the airline business at Rolls-Royce, says: "It may be surprising to some people outside our industry that Rolls-Royce has won a Queen's Award for the Environment, since aircraft engines have not always been thought of in the past as environmentally friendly."

"However, we have made massive strides over the past few years to ensure that Rolls-Royce engines not only conform to current legislation by a wide margin, but exceed planned legislation."

RODNEY HOBSON

Noddy and Enid go West

The stories and characters created by Enid Blyton have delighted children for more than three generations, and not just in Britain. John Young writes. They are particularly popular in France and Germany, as well as in Scandinavia, Australia and Japan.

Enid Blyton Limited was established in 1950 to market the publishing and merchandising rights to the author's works. This year it receives a Queen's Award for Export Achievement, and is to launch a new Noddy series on American and Canadian television.

Forty half-hour episodes have been completed, each a mixture of live action and animation. The accents and terminology are North American and some changes have been made to satisfy politically correct sensibilities, but the content remains the same.

The company also has plans to establish a joint venture with the Magna group in South-East Asia, with offices in Hong Kong and Singapore. It believes the stories could prove as popular with Asian children as with those in Europe and the English-speaking world.

Animated cartoons are also the business of Cambridge Animation Systems Ltd, set up eight years ago. Its software is used under licence in more than 200 studios across the world for the production of television series, feature films, commercials and video games, notably in the US and Japan, where its main competitors are based.

A neighbour in the same city, but older by more than four-and-a-half centuries, is the Cambridge University Press. It has done much to assist the spread of the English language, through direct



Noddy: US conquest

exports and the sale of publishing rights to academic and scientific books and journals, educational courses and Bibles.

Over the past six years its export income totalled £266 million, its largest mar-

kets being America, Japan, Brazil, Germany and South Korea.

Another successful upmarket publisher is the Folio Society, established in 1947 to produce "editions of the world's great literature in a format worthy of the contents, at a price within reach of every man".

Since then, more than 1,000 titles have been published, all designed and produced in Britain. Two in every five of the society's members live abroad, most of them in America, Canada and Australasia, but also in 40 other countries including South Africa, China and Brazil. This year's export award is the society's first, and fittingly marks a half-century of success.



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NDS's digital broadcasting and conditional access technology is being used around the world to deliver high quality television pictures and more consumer convenience and choice - for over 3000 channels and over 9 million subscribers. Behind the scenes advanced digital broadcasting solutions from NDS covered events like the handover of Hong Kong, the Pope's visit to Cuba and the Nagano 1998 Winter Olympics.

NDS' leading digital technology will power the introduction of digital television into the UK in 1998.

NDS thanks all its employees, its suppliers, its business partners and its customers around the world for their support.

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Is your business good enough?

Every year, hundreds of businesses apply for a Queen's Award. The reason for this is simple. They want to be acknowledged as

being the best in their field. There are three Queen's Awards. One for Export Achievement, one for Technological Achievement

and another for Environmental Achievement. If you think your business is good enough, apply for a Queen's Award today.



THE QUEEN'S REWARD FOR BUSINESS

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Early he deaf ba

AWARD FOR TECHNOL



THE QUEEN'S AWARD FOR EXPORT ACHIEVEMENT 1998

WatsonSmith

IMI

Roll up for the season's final £1,000 prize

The story so far

After seeing Rangers lose to Aberdeen, all I can say is that I did well not to sink all my transfer money into signing Marco Negri. One of my better decisions, as it has turned out. And it was all going so well for him and Rangers earlier on.

The April winners have until the middle of next week to accumulate points; a Jarrow man marches to the top of the week's jumpers

The monthly ITF prizes for April will be announced in a fortnight's time, which means that next weekend and the following midweek will be the last opportunities to use transfers for those with their eyes on a prize of £1,000, an autographed football, a Mitre sportsbag and tickets for a premier league game.

There will not be a monthly prize for May, since most clubs will play only two games, the exceptions being the FA and Scottish cup finalists and those clubs, such as Arsenal, who must still play games in hand.

The highest jumper in the ITF league this week is a team labouring under the name of Winda Lickas AFC, chosen by Mr Ed McLeod of Jarrow. Despite fielding one invalid player (which would rule him out of contention for a prize), the team accumulated a respectable 39 points over the week and leapt a princely 21,538 places.

His strike pair of Egil Ostenstad and John Harrison chalked up 13 points, while the central defenders, Tony Adams and Michael Duberry, managed a handsome 14 between them - altogether four shrewd choices, especially since they all come from the southern teams and the selector was viewing them from the other end of the country.



The other high-scoring player in Mr McLeod's side was the goalkeeper, Jim Leighton, fresh from his side's vital win over Rangers that brought him seven points.

ITF helpline: 01582 702720.

HOW IS YOUR TEAM DOING?

Telephone 0891 884 643

50p a minute, using a Touch-tone telephone. Public calls cost twice as much.



Gallacher, below, scores for Scotland but not so often for Blackburn these days. Vieira, above, would be a good buy



FAXBACK: YOUR UP-TO-DATE TEAM SCORES

The Times Faxback service provides you with a complete results sheet of your team, showing current and total scores, dates, times and details of transfers, as well as your position in the ITF league and, if appropriate, your mini-league (women's, students', youth). Scores and transfer confirmations are updated by 22 noon on the day following a match or matches.

Make sure you have your ten-digit PIN number ready when you call. To obtain an ITF team faxback, simply pick up the handset of the fax machine and dial the telephone number below. If your fax does not have a handset, attach a handset or press the on-hook or telephone button instead and dial the number below. Listen carefully to the instructions and press the appropriate buttons when asked. Calls cost £1 per minute and are available in the UK only.

The number to call for your faxback is: 0991 111 333

If you have any problems operating this service, call the Faxback Helpline on 0171-412 3795. This service is provided by Telecom Express, Westminster Tower, London SE1 7SP.

LEAGUE UPDATES

ITF LEAGUE £50,000 top prize £1,000 monthly prize

STUDENTS' LEAGUE Monthly prize of premiership tickets, signed football and sports bag

WOMEN'S LEAGUE Monthly prize of premiership tickets, signed football and sports bag

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Table listing women's league teams and scores, including S Whitfield, J Gardner, C Purdy, A Finch, B Fletcher, etc.

STUDENTS' LEAGUE

Table listing students' league teams and scores, including N Wheatley, T Gardner, Mr N Wheatley, etc.

YOUTH LEAGUE

Table listing youth league teams and scores, including M Somapala, J Gardner, R Wick, etc.

ITF LEAGUE

Main ITF league table listing teams like Mr M Jones, A Luckhurst, A Luckhurst, etc., with their respective scores.

PFA PLAYERS' LEAGUE

PFA Players' League table listing teams like Simon Grayson, Patrick Berger, Jonathan Hunt, etc.

FA CUP LEAGUE

FA Cup League table listing teams like Susan Malkin, Mr M Jones, Mr P Turner, etc.

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS

All 1507-8 matches in the FA Cup, the Scottish League premier division and Tennents Scottish Cup count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO ENTER ITF

£1,000, a signed Mitre football and a Mitre Sports bag, and tickets to a premier league match of your choice can be won every month, plus the chance to win £10,000 in the FA Cup League.

The manager of the month can be won by any team, no matter where it is in the overall ITF league. The prize simply goes to the person whose team scores the highest points in any one month.

HOW TO ENTER

Entries to ITF via The Times are now by phone only, on 0891 405 011. From the Republic of Ireland only +44 990 100 308.

"4-4-2 not working? Try 0-8-0-0-1-1-1-2-1-0 instead."

Feeling sick as a parrot? You need to team up with LineOne, the UK's on-line entertainment and internet service.



One month's free membership to LineOne includes 10 hours free access to the internet. Try LineOne now on broadband FREE call 0800 111 210.

Large vertical advertisement on the right edge, partially cut off, mentioning 'French' and 'GOALKEEPERS'.

حزبنا من الاعمال

French connection stealing the limelight

With the World Cup looming, Nick Szczepanik examines the impact of overseas players on ITF teams.

As summer's World Cup approaches, the thoughts of many of the top performers in the FA Carling Premiership and the Bells Scottish League are turning to the make-up of national squads.



In the past few weeks, the French connection at Highbury has stolen the limelight previously enjoyed in Little Italy, SW6.

Petrescu is a mainstay of the Romania set-up, and Roberto Di Matteo is expected to be at the heart of Cesare Maldini's Italy midfield.

Nervous noises have been coming from players currently out of their club teams, who fear that they will be over-

WORLD CUP XI

- P Schmeichel Denmark
D Petrescu Romania
S Iyornabye Norway
M Rieper Denmark
L Radebe S Africa
R Earle Jamaica
P Vieira France
R Di Matteo Italy
O Lomax Norway
E Ostensstad Norway
D Bergkamp Holland

looked by their international managers: Fernando Nelson of Aston Villa and Jose Dominguez of Tottenham have both expressed concern about their Portugal places.

For ITF entrants, too, the absence of players from their club sides means lost opportunities, but you can also expect to gain from the efforts of World Cup possibilities to attract attention.

Many, of course, are in teams well in the hunt for honours anyway. Lucas Radebe, Gunnar Halle and company are attempting to qualify for a European place with Leeds, and Marc Rieper, the Celtic central defender, is chasing the Scottish title as well as attempting to guarantee his Denmark place.

We have picked an ITF World Cup select XI, keeping to the rules of the competition, which means that even established internationals such as Kasey Keller (United States), Igor Simac (Croatia) and Mark Fish (South Africa) cannot make the team.



Dan Petrescu: Romanian mainstay



Egil Ostensstad: high-scoring striker

THIS WEEK'S MOVES

There are no transfers in ITF this week

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

YOU MAY transfer as and when you wish according to your team transfer allowance. If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team.

TEAMS registered from now on will be allocated 20 transfers for the rest of the season.

THE LINE is open now and will remain open for the rest of the season. You may only make transfers by using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone).

YOU MAY make up to four transfers per call but may make as many calls as you wish to achieve the required amount of transfers.

TRANSFERS made before 12 noon on any day will become effective for matches starting after that time. Transfers made after 12 noon will become effective for matches starting after 12 noon the following day.

YOUR NEW player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

CALLS COST 50p per minute and calls from a telephone box cost approximately twice as much.

Transfer number: 0891 884 628. Outside the UK: +44 990 200 538.

Table with columns: Code, Name, Team, £, FA(w), FA, Lgw, Tot. Lists player stats for teams like Aberdeen, Arsenal, Aston Villa, etc.

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Table with columns: Code, Name, Team, £, FA(w), FA, Lgw, Tot. Lists player stats for teams like Bolton, Bolton, Celtic, etc.

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Table with columns: Code, Name, Team, £, FA(w), FA, Lgw, Tot. Lists player stats for teams like Aberdeen, Arsenal, Aston Villa, etc.

Table with columns: Code, Name, Team, £, FA(w), FA, Lgw, Tot. Lists player stats for teams like Bolton, Bolton, Celtic, etc.

Table with columns: Code, Name, Team, £, FA(w), FA, Lgw, Tot. Lists player stats for teams like Aberdeen, Arsenal, Aston Villa, etc.

MIDFIELD PLAYERS

Table with columns: Code, Name, Team, £, FA(w), FA, Lgw, Tot. Lists player stats for teams like Aberdeen, Arsenal, Aston Villa, etc.

DEFENCE

Table with columns: Code, Name, Team, £, FA(w), FA, Lgw, Tot. Lists player stats for teams like Aberdeen, Arsenal, Aston Villa, etc.

GOALKEEPERS

Table with columns: Code, Name, Team, £, FA(w), FA, Lgw, Tot. Lists player stats for teams like Aberdeen, Arsenal, Aston Villa, etc.

FORWARDS

Table with columns: Code, Name, Team, £, FA(w), FA, Lgw, Tot. Lists player stats for teams like Aberdeen, Arsenal, Aston Villa, etc.

NEWS

Police chief refuses to go

A Chief Constable rejected an unprecedented demand from the Scottish Secretary that he should "pack his bags and go" after the publication of a highly critical report into his force's handling of a child murder inquiry.

Donald Dewar called on Ian Oliver, Chief Constable of Grampian Police, to resign immediately or face being forcibly removed from his post. But Dr Oliver said that he wanted the "totally unjustified denigration" of his force to stop. Page 1

Nanny accused of hurting child

An Australian nanny appeared in court accused of shaking a six-month-old baby girl and leaving her with severe brain injuries. Police said that Louise Sullivan, 26, could be charged with murder or manslaughter if the baby, Caroline, who is on a life support machine, dies. Page 1

McCartney funeral

Sir Paul McCartney had his wife, Linda, cremated in a brief ceremony just hours after her death in California. Only the ex-Beatle and their four children were present. Pages 1, 6

E. coli inquiry

The long-awaited fatal accident inquiry opened into the world's worst E. coli O157 food poisoning outbreak, which killed 21 people in central Scotland. Page 9

Exchange trip risks

Alarming evidence of the abuse of schoolchildren on international exchange trips has led the Home Office to fund the first large-scale study of the risks. Some children have been assaulted while on trips to Europe. Page 10

Angry nurses

The Health Secretary had an angry reception from 2,000 nurses when he tried to apologise for the below-inflation, staged pay award they received this year. Page 11

Czech gloom

The serious illness of President Havel has plunged Czechs into gloom and prompted discreet questions about the political future of the country. Page 14

City at war

Paris city hall is facing paralysis because of a vicious internal power struggle which has further undermined President Chirac's centre-right coalition. Page 15

Farmers' revenge

A leading Australian politician who supported the docks blockade got a taste of his own medicine when he was imprisoned by angry farmers. Page 17

Union recognition

The unions gave ground in the battle over new rights for workers. The TUC dropped its insistence that a simple majority of workers taking part in a ballot would be enough to force employers to recognise unions. Page 2

Fishing fines

Spanish fishermen face fines of over £1 million after pleading guilty to over fishing in British waters. Thirteen companies and ten skippers admitted more than 100 offences. Page 4

Holiday cut short

Hundreds of holiday-makers were flown home from a disastrous transatlantic cruise after they complained over the service provided by the crew. Page 5

Women priests row

Women clergy have been spat at in the street, described as witches and faced abuses that "border on criminal behaviour". Page 6

Black envoy sought

Robin Cook is planning to "jump-start" equal opportunities in the Foreign Office by appointing a black ambassador from outside the diplomatic service. Page 8

Irvine opens all doors except one

The Lord Chancellor unveiled most of his refurbished residence to the media but kept his new antique Victorian water closet behind closed doors. As reporters and photographers swarmed around the nine-roomed apartment in the House of Lords, Norah Dobinson, Lord Irvine of Lairg's Train Bearer, stood guard outside the lavatory. Pages 1, 3



Cherie Blair and Suha Arafat watch as the Palestinian President welcomes the British Prime Minister to his office in Gaza. Page 13

Biotech: British Biotech dismissed

his head of clinical research. The shares, which were 270p a year ago, fell 2½p to 56½p. Page 29

Rolls-Royce: Volkswagen, the German car maker, re-ignited the acrimonious bid battle for luxury car maker Rolls-Royce Motor Cars. Page 29

Courtaulds: Akzo Nobel, the Dutch giant that made an agreed £1.8 billion offer for Courtaulds, the British paints and chemicals company, plans to spin off the fibre operations. Page 29

Markets: The FTSE 100 index rose 31.9 to 5954.1. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 107.6 to 107.0 after falling from \$1.6852 to \$1.6780 and falling from DM3.0465 to DM3.0248. Page 32

Football: Glenn Hoddle revealed that no fewer than three-quarters of his World Cup squad had used the services of his long-time spiritual adviser. Page 56

Cricket: Sussex and Derbyshire recorded narrow victories, over Lancashire and Nottinghamshire, in the opening round of championship matches. Pages 52, 56

Snooker: Steve Davis, who reached the last 16 of the world championship in Sheffield with a 10-6 win over Simon Bedford, said that he would like to play until he was 50. Page 56

Rugby union: Rob Wainwright, who lost the captaincy to Gary Armstrong for the Five Nations Championship, will lead Scotland on their tour of Australia. Page 53

North star: How Steven Sloane, Opera North's young and dynamic new music director, is planning to apply the wide experience he has gained across Europe and America to Leeds. Page 36

After Henry: The National Gallery is celebrating Henry Moore's centenary with a show that reveals his long involvement and his debt to its Old Masters. Page 37

Dancing light: Choreographer and performer Russell Maliphant may work on a small scale but there is nothing small about his work, as his double bill shows. Page 37

Jazzed up: Britain's earliest and brightest jazz festival in Cheltenham maintains its tradition of offering a high proportion of new and original music. Page 38

Fighting cancer: A healthy lifestyle and good genes are still thought to offer the best protection against breast cancer. Plus a woman who believes that an NHS "attitude problem" led to a failure to diagnose her breast cancer. Page 18

Strange liaisons: Uppingham discourages romantic liaisons. Distances of 1975, 60 old boys and girls have married each other. Page 19

Pipes dream: The Northumbrian bagpipe-maker who has hit all the right notes. Page 39

No show: Peter Carter-Ruck wonders whether the O.J. Simpson trial has killed any chance of cameras in English courtrooms. Page 41

Signing off: Dominic Dunne explains why he has covered his last murder trial. Page 43

From Rolls-Royce to Enid Blyton: the awards and what they mean to Britain. Pages 24, 25

Even the selection of the clumsy Robin Cook demonstrates Blair's political acumen. With a diplomat like Cook by his side, how can Blair fail to loom as a giant statesman? - The Jerusalem Post

TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

HOMES Global warming is bringing house-eating insects to England. What is the risk and how can householders guard against it?

INTERFACE The full techie: how Sheffield is going online



Weather and forecast section including: Latest Road and Weather conditions, Weather by Fax, World City Weather, Motoring, Car reports by fax, and a table of weather forecasts for various regions like NW England, Isle of Man, Orkney, Republic of Ireland, and SW England.

HIGHEST & LOWEST and NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING sections.

"Watch it pour." advertisement for Guinness Extra Stout, featuring an image of a bottle and a glass of stout.

RADIO & TV

Preview: The most comprehensive study of Alzheimer's in Britain (Assault on the Mind, Channel 4, 9pm). Review: Joe Joseph is impressed but not much amused by Stressed Eric (BBC2). Pages 54, 55

OPINION

Letter from America Belated American intervention to rescue Europe from itself has been the story of this century. Mr Gingrich's determination to speak out is extremely welcome. Page 21

Dangerously cool "Cool Britannia" is unlikely to have so drastic an effect on Mr Blair's Government as "back-to-basics" had on Mr Major's. Page 21

You did, Monty In football the only winner is the team that scores more goals. For films history, fashion, diversity and the collective memory also have a say in the verdict. Page 21

COLUMNS

LIBBY PURVES That is the joy of fiction. One moment you are confronting a serious debate about feeling and principle, the next bouncing off into fantasy. It is no bad way to think about life. Better than polemics. Page 20

LAWRENCE FREEDMAN The new forum may also let President Clinton off the hook. It is one thing to preside over successful peace processes, quite another to carry alone the burden of failure. If Mr Netanyahu will not budge, he can share the problem with his friend Tony Blair. Page 20

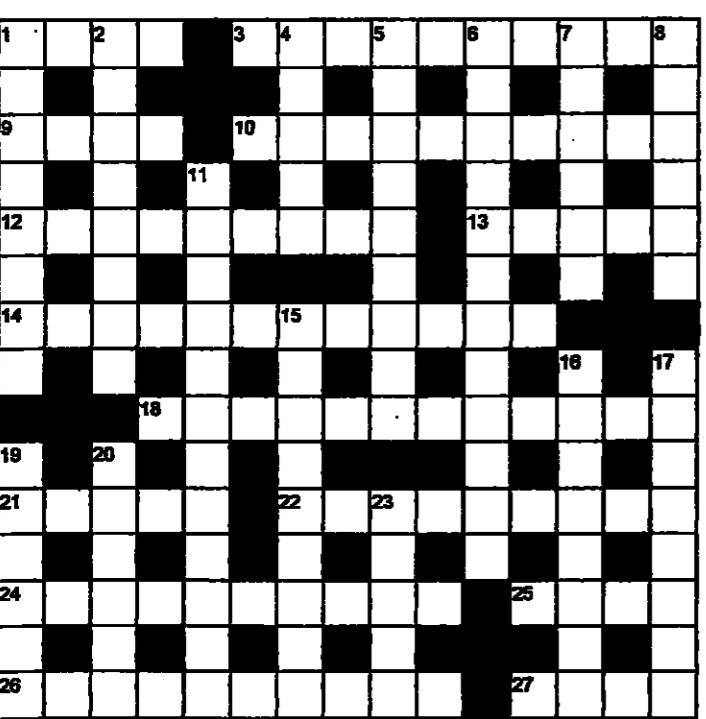
ANATOLE KALETSKY The feeling is that Britain needs a special relationship with a Big Brother. If closer cooperation with America is presented as an alternative to EMU, it will only play into the Euro-federalists' hands. Page 20

PETER RIDDELL What matters is how Sinn Fein develops and what the IRA does. Is it willing to behave as if the ceasefire is permanent? Page 12

The Right Rev Trevor Huddleston, anti-apartheid campaigner; Octavio Paz, Nobel prize-winning novelist; Linda McCartney, vegetarian campaigner. Page 23

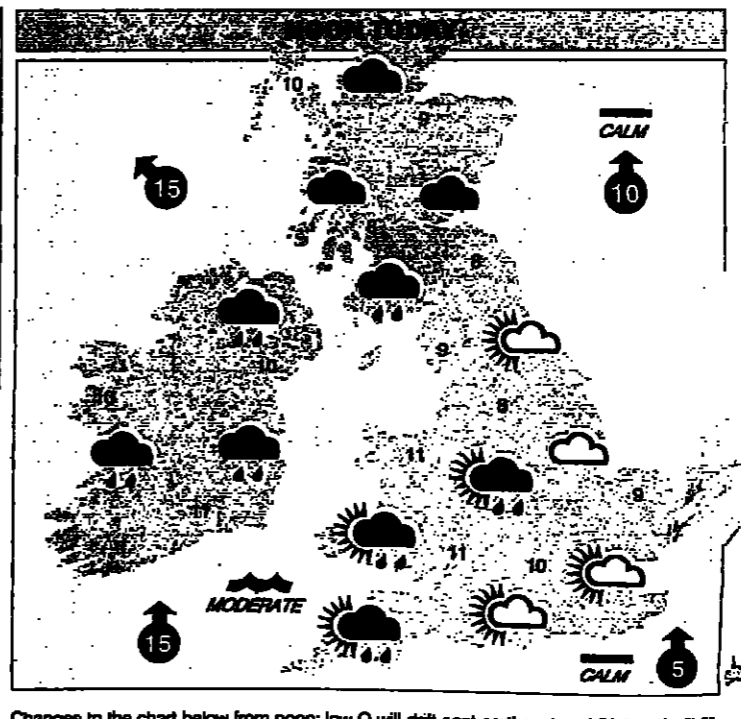
Ulster: EU languages: road tax: art: youth orchestra: teachers' holidays. Page 21

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,771

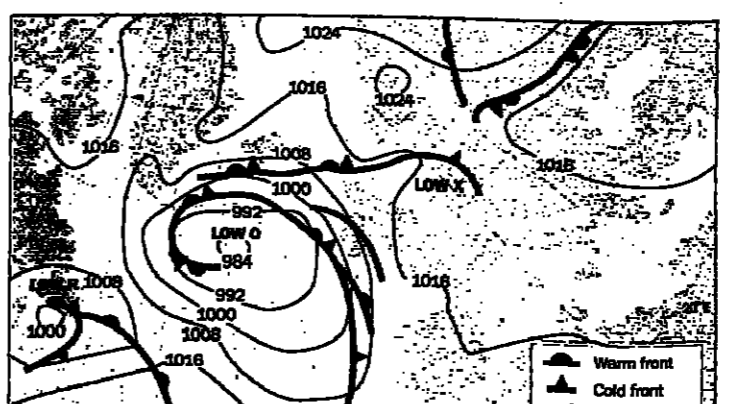


- ACROSS 1 Island needing second rescue vessel (4). 3 Old man from Maine so well in retirement (10). 9 Oh dear! Nothing works (4). 10 Application to bat for cricket side, one I'll sort out (7,3). 12 Gathering business is getting better (7,2). 13 There's nothing forbidding in this scent (5). 14 Bound to fight in brave company (7,3,7). 18 What one wants above all is the reader's conversion (6,6). 21 Saw notice ahead of time (5). 22 Drawing showing face lift (9). 24 Green plan to recycle (10). 25 Mole has something to eat beside river (4). 26 Get city elders involved individually (10). 27 Back a mount, i.e. bet (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20770. A grid of words including STRAND, LAYABOUT, TENNIS, RAINBOW, TUNA, C, E, T, P, BALLROOM, FORNITE, GI, A, N, M, I, E, S, C, R, E, W, E, N, F, R, E, T, S, S, E, D, R, A, G, I, F, K, E, A, P, S, A, K, E, N, O, F, F, E, R, I, C, UNLASH, COTTAGER, N, U, T, K, A, I, S, DREARY, ESCALATE, E, N, E, T, H, E, O, RUTHLESS, ENDURE.



Changes to the chart below from noon: low O will drift east northeast and fill; low X will fill and lose its identity; low R will move rapidly east and maintain its central pressure



HIGH TIDES table with columns for TODAY, AM, HT, PM, HT and TODAY, AM, HT, PM, HT for various locations.

HOUS OF DARKNESS table with columns for Sun rises, Sun sets, Moon sets, Moon rises and London, Bristol, Edinburgh, Manchester, Perthance times.

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INSIDE SECTION

2 TODAY



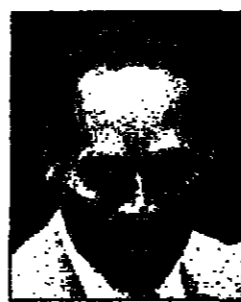
BUSINESS

'Whingeing' exporters bite back PAGE 33



ARTS

Tony Coe blows hot at the Cheltenham Jazz Festival PAGES 36-37



LAW

Has the Simpson case damaged English justice? PAGES 41-49

FULL CRICKET SCOREBOARDS AND REPORTS PAGES 51-56

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY APRIL 21 1998

Investors told nine months after 'major objections' of European watchdog

Biotech delay over drug warning

By PAUL DURMAN

BRITISH Biotech failed for nine months to tell the stock market of "major objections" raised by European regulators about Zacutex, the pancreatic treatment which is one of its most important drugs.

As The Times revealed yesterday, British Biotech is already under investigation by the US Securities and Exchange Commission over allegedly misleading press releases about marimastat, its cancer drug.

development, it also emerged yesterday that British Biotech delayed for two months before telling the stock market about the side effect problems of batimastat, an earlier cancer drug on which work was abandoned in 1995. During the two-month period, three directors, including Keith McCullagh, chief executive, sold shares for a profit of more than £1.2 million.

Zacutex was British Biotech's lead drug, originally expected to be launched this year and to generate eventual sales of hundreds of millions of pounds. British Biotech's

shares traded at around 250p last May. Yesterday the shares hit a low of 50p, down 2p. Early this year, British Biotech was still suggesting it was hopeful of receiving approval for the drug. Yet in May last year, the European Medicines Evaluation Agency had told British Biotech it had five major objections.

Within a week of receiving this letter, British Biotech issued two upbeat statements, one on trial results, the other on the recruitment of a management team to sell the drug. A British Biotech spokeswoman said: "It's not unusual

to receive such a letter as part of the regulatory review process. Our view, which was supported by the external experts, was that there was a reasonable chance of getting approval for Zacutex."

Commentary 31

British Biotech first learnt of the problems with batimastat, then its lead compound, at a project team meeting on December 19, 1994. The side effects problems were discussed further at a meeting of

medical investigators on January 10, 1995.

On January 17, Dr McCullagh, Sir Brian Richards, the co-founder and former chairman of British Biotech, and John Gordon, head of its Neures arm, sold shares for a profit of more than £1.2 million. The McCullagh/Richards/Gordon sell order was placed on December 14.

A week after the sale, on January 25, the side effect problems, the threat of peritonic trials, prompted British Biotech to write to investigators to tell them to abandon the

batimastat trial. But it was not until three weeks later, on February 17, that the company told the stock market about the problems, which caused a collapse in its share price.

The spokeswoman said the share sales had been examined by the Stock Exchange and ruled to be in accordance with the model code.

Cameron McKenna, the law firm, has also examined these trades as part of the inquiry into the concerns raised in conversations with Perpetual by Andy Millar, the director of clinical research who was suspended last month. Dr

Millar was yesterday dismissed as a disciplinary hearing. British Biotech said it was satisfied that Dr Millar's concerns "either had no substance or reflected purely personal opinions".

In discussing his concerns with Perpetual, a 9.5 per cent shareholder, Dr Millar had acted without authority or any justification.

Sir Brian gave strong backing to Dr McCullagh. He said: "I have always found Keith to be a man of excellent integrity, superb intelligence and managerial capability such as I have not seen in this sector."

BUSINESS TODAY

Table with financial data including FTSE 100, US RATE, LONDON MONEY, and various market indices.

VW steps up challenge to BMW's bid for Rolls

By ROBERT COLE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

VOLKSWAGEN, the German car manufacturer, yesterday re-ignited the acrimonious bid battle for luxury car maker Rolls-Royce Motor Cars.

VW signalled its clear intention to top the recent £340 million offer made by BMW, its rival German car manufacturer, and accompanied its renewed assault with a plan which would mean that engines for new Rolls-Royces could be built in the UK.

Leading the list of additional proposals from VW is the proposal to buy Cosworth, the British motor engine designer and producer, which is also currently owned by Vickers.

If successful, purchasing Cosworth would secure VW a British base for the production

of engines for Rolls-Royce cars. In the process it would stymie traditionalists who are concerned that production of all or part of a Rolls-Royce is undertaken overseas.

The rival bid from BMW has been strengthened because it supplies the engines for the latest Silver Seraph Rolls-Royce. The ownership of Cosworth would help VW to counter suggestions that the current deal gave BMW an advantage because it has the engine deal.

VW is considering paying up to £380 million for Rolls-Royce but will pay additional amounts for Cosworth. Market estimates are that the Cosworth engines could be worth £40 million. VW also indicated that if it won ownership it would retain the British management structure at Rolls-Royce. It is also understood that VW would guarantee job security at the Crewe factory.

VW also has ambitions to step up production of Rolls-Royce luxury cars — which includes Bentley. VW would like to increase production fivefold, to 10,000 cars a year. Volkswagen's supervisory board will meet next Saturday to discuss improving its takeover offer for Rolls-Royce. Klaus Kocks, spokesman for VW, said it was a special meeting called "to discuss a new improved offer to Vickers".

The VW developments also give new importance to the legal wranglings over whether Rolls-Royce — the aero-engine maker and former owner of the motor marque — has a right to veto any sale.

The aero engine maker claims that it retains rights to protect the Rolls-Royce motor brand under a pre-existing licensing agreement with Vickers, the car maker's current parent. Legal arguments from both sides are currently being considered by the European Court.



Cees van Lede called the deal a win-win situation that would make Akzo the leader in coatings with a market share worldwide of 10 per cent

Akzo in £1.8bn agreed bid for Courtaulds

By CARL MORTSHED

AKZO NOBEL, which yesterday made an agreed £1.8 billion offer for Courtaulds, plans to create the largest quoted fibres company by spinning off the Akzo and Courtaulds operations into a separate company.

The new fibres group, which could be worth almost £1 billion, will be split off

shortly after the takeover of Courtaulds by the Dutch pharmaceutical and chemicals group is completed.

Akzo is making a 450p-a-share cash offer for Courtaulds, in line with the price mooted a fortnight ago when Courtaulds revealed that it was in talks with the Dutch company, Cees van Lede, Akzo's chief executive, described the deal as a win-win situation

that would make Akzo the leader in coatings with a market share worldwide of 10 per cent. Akzo owns the Crown decorative paints brand while Courtaulds owns the market leader in marine and aerospace coatings.

Mr Van Lede said that the deal would be financed with borrowings raised in Dutch currency. He indicated that the low cost of borrowing

would mean that Akzo's earnings per share would be enhanced without assuming any gains from the merger.

Gordon Campbell, Courtaulds' chief executive, said he had received no approaches since Akzo indicated a likely price of 450p. He is expected to head the troubled fibres business.

Tempus, page 32

Seven-year low for the PSBR

BRITAIN achieved its lowest budget deficit for seven years in the tax year just ended, reflecting Gordon Brown's iron grip on public spending and the economic boom unleashed by his predecessor (Janet Bush writes).

The public sector borrowing requirement was only £922 million in 1997-98, down from £2.6 billion. March saw a PSBR of £7.2 billion as departments went on a traditional year-end spending spree, but the figure was still lower than expected.

At the time of the Budget, the Treasury predicted a PSBR of £2.6 billion. For the year as a whole, spending was up by 0.2 per cent while receipts were nearly 10 per cent higher, courtesy of strong economic growth. Committee rebel, page 30

Thomson chief to receive up to £1.5m in options

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

PAUL BRETT, chief executive of Thomson Travel Group, is to receive options with a value of up to £1.52 million, four times his annual salary of £380,000, after the group's float.

The other ten executive directors will be awarded options worth up to three times their annual salaries.

Executive directors may also receive bonuses of up to twice their salaries in 1998, and could qualify for a share in a £4.5 million additional payment for the work they have done prior to the

flotation. Several hundred thousand private investors have already registered their interest in the float after being lured by the offer of a 10 per cent discount on future Thomson holidays.

TTG will be listed on the Stock Exchange officially on May 18 with a value of between £1.4 billion and £1.7 billion. This is 23 per cent more than analysts' forecasts last month.

A total of one billion shares will be in issue after the flotation, priced at between 140p and 170p per share.

Pro-conversion Hardern renews Nationwide battle

By RICHARD MILES

NATIONWIDE Building Society is to lock horns again with Michael Hardern, the self-styled king of the carpetbaggers, when he seeks election to the board this summer on a pro-conversion ticket.

Undeterred by his 3-1 defeat last July, the freelance butler has retailed his resolutions calling for an immediate conversion and the payment of £2,000 windfalls to the society's 4.5 million qualifying members.

A second carpetbagger, Andrew Muir, is also seeking election to the Nationwide board, but he does not want the society to convert to a bank. Instead, Mr Muir wants Nationwide to pay the windfalls from its reserves.

Just under one million more members will be eligible to vote in this year's ballot, including for the first time 800,000 mortgage customers. However, 200,000 savers who have joined since November 4 will have to donate any windfalls to a charity: the Nationwide Foundation.

Takeover speculation has been encouraged by EMI's recent poor performance and a management debacle that has seen Sir Colin take a demanding outside job as chairman of the Royal Opera House.

Tempus, page 32

EMI chief flies to US amid talk of bid

By CHRIS AYRES

SIR COLIN SOUTHGATE, chairman of EMI, was yesterday flying to Los Angeles amid heightened speculation that the UK music group is in takeover talks with Seagram, the Canadian drinks and entertainment group.

Music industry sources said that Sir Colin was flying to California, although EMI would not confirm his diary arrangements. His trip coincides with reports in Hollywood that talks were back on between the two companies.

Shares in EMI yesterday rose by more than 5 per cent, to 490p, having slumped to a low of 430p in February. Two years ago they traded at 738p. Analysts said that any bid would probably offer at least a 20 per cent premium to yesterday's 490p price, valuing the music company at £4.5 billion, or about 58p a share.

EMI, home to The Spice Girls, yesterday refused to comment. Seagram also refused, even after a request from the Toronto Stock Exchange. Although cautious of the speculation, analysts said that the sluggish music market meant that consolidation would be a compelling way for both companies to grow. One added that they were also a good geographical fit.

Takeover speculation has been encouraged by EMI's recent poor performance and a management debacle that has seen Sir Colin take a demanding outside job as chairman of the Royal Opera House.

Advertisement for John Charcol mortgage services, featuring a 6.50% APR offer and a 1% cashback. Includes contact information: 0800 71 81 91.

Iceland chief's pay rises 49%

By FRASER NELSON

MALCOLM WALKER, the chief executive of Iceland, enjoyed a 49 per cent pay rise last year even though he oversaw the company's worst profits decline since it joined the market in 1986.

Mr Walker took home £433,324 last year, one of the highest salaries in British retailing, after a £133,100 bonus.

Bernard Leigh, Iceland's deputy chairman, enjoyed a 45 per cent pay rise, to £306,834, and Andrew Pritchard, finance director, earned £234,091 — a 50 per cent rise on the previous year.

The directors' bonus package was linked to earnings per share, which increased by 13 per cent over the year even though the company's pre-tax profits sank to £43.5 million (£56.2 million).

This was made possible by a £135 million share buyback, which reduced the number of shares in issue by a third. The company said that the directors' bonus package was fixed in March last year and took account of the share buyback.

Committee rebel attacks 'superficial' Budget report

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE Treasury Select Committee yesterday published a broadly favourable report on Gordon Brown's March Budget but its efforts were immediately lambasted by one of its members for being "superficial, incomplete and unsatisfactory".

Malcolm Bruce, Treasury spokesman for the Liberal Democrats, took the unusual step of producing an alternative report because he said that the main report failed to reflect criticisms of Mr Brown's overall fiscal policy. Mr Bruce said that the Chancellor "should have tightened fiscal policy in a manner

which would have cooled off the consumer sector, rather than focusing tax increases on businesses and savers".

Mr Bruce, whose views were shared by three Conservative members of the committee, blamed the strength of sterling directly on the Chancellor. He said: "The ineffectiveness of the Government's fiscal policy has ensured that the full burden of stabilising the economy, and expectations of such in the financial markets, has fallen on monetary policy. This has pushed the pound up and damaged British industry."

The committee was evenly

split when it voted on these questions of fiscal policy, with Mr Bruce and three Conservative members ranged against the four Labour members present. Giles Radice, as chairman, used his casting vote to keep the criticism out of the report.

The main report urged the Treasury, "in the light of concern about sectoral differences and the policy mix", to explain what role, if any, it considered fiscal policy should play in stabilisation and whether, in its view, monetary policy alone should bear the burden of demand management. This clearly sought to

reflect discomfort on the committee but did not spell it out.

The main report welcomed the Chancellor's new Code for Fiscal Stability and the Government's willingness to consult on proposals before the Budget, although the committee expressed disappointment that the Budget's changes to capital gains tax had not been subject to prior consultation.

It also expressed approval of the Government's modified plans for individual savings accounts, at the same time urging an examination of savings as a whole. The new working families tax credit was also approved.

Gingrich fights tobacco Bill

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

A NEW US anti-tobacco law that companies claimed could bankrupt them will not be passed, according to Newt Gingrich, the Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives.

A \$1.10 price rise per pack contained in the Bill that is now before the Senate would severely hurt, among others, BAT, the UK tobacco group.

But an even more painful restriction on advertising in foreign countries, including Britain. This would restrict growth in some of Big Tobacco's most dynamic markets.

Mr Gingrich is now trying to stop the law, which was proposed after last year's \$368.5 billion cash-for-immunity deal between the tobacco companies and the Government fell apart when Congress objected.

The new, watered-down Bill was criticised by the House Speaker for being another tax-raising measure designed to pay for the other policies of Bill Clinton. He said: "That Bill is a very liberal, big government, big bureaucracy Bill and those who say it is not a Republican Bill are right."

The Senate Bill would limit how American cigarettes are advertised and sold abroad. It would impose the same restrictions on marketing to children abroad as at home. It would levy a two-cent-per-pack fee on cigarettes sold abroad to finance a new non-profit centre to help international agencies' anti-smoking efforts.

RJR Nabisco, one of America's biggest tobacco groups, has so far given the strongest warning that the Bill could lead to bankruptcy. The "political tobacco industry wrangling is back to square one", said a Wall Street analyst, with immunity from class action suits further away than ever.

President Clinton replied to Mr Gingrich by calling on Congress to pass the Bill to help to stop teenage smoking. He said: "We are fighting for the lives of our children."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Kingfisher recruits director from rival

KINGFISHER, the Woolworths to Comet retail group, has recruited Ian Cheshire from rival retailers Sears to be its director of business development. Mr Cheshire, 38, will be looking at developing Kingfisher's British and overseas business organically and through acquisitions, he said. He is currently group commercial director at Sears, which is due to demerge its Selfridges department store business in July, and is a main board director there.

Mr Cheshire will take up his job at Kingfisher on May 11. He has worked for the Boston Consultancy Group and Guinness and was also managing director of Healthwork, a retail operation that was later sold to Grand Metropolitan. In 1989 he became an equity partner in Pied-a-Terre, the shoe retailer, and in 1992 became an equity partner in Piper Trust, a retail development consultancy.

Ashtenne ahead 90%

ASHTENNE, the industrial property specialist that was floated last July, has announced profits for the year to December 31 of £7.6 million, up 90 per cent on 1996. A 3p final dividend makes the total payout for the year 5p. At the year end, net assets were £99.7 million against pro forma net assets of £82.8 million before flotation. Earnings per share were 14.1p. James Hambro, chairman, said that he expected the company to continue its acquisition programme in 1998, adding to Ashtenne's current portfolio of 5.9 million sq ft.

Tomkins sells Axis

TOMKINS, the conglomerate, is to sell Axis Resources for £13 million to a private company backed by the Axis management, Lloyds development capital and NatWest Equity. Axis is based in Essex and provides outsourcing services. It has 250 staff and made £510,000 before tax in the year to May 3, 1997, on sales of £14 million and net assets of £483,000. Axis Resources joined Tomkins in 1992 as part of the Ranks Hovis McDougall acquisition. The disposal is the fourteenth by Tomkins in the current financial year as part of its strategy to focus on manufacturing.

Henry Boot tops £10m

HENRY BOOT, the construction group, raised pre-tax profits from £9.39 million to £10.12 million in the year to December 31 on sales almost unchanged at £162 million. Earnings per share rose from 25.1p to 27.1p, out of which the total dividend for the year rises by 6.3 per cent, to 8.5p, after payment of a 6.2p final. The group has net cash of £10.4 million. On prospects, John Reis, chairman, said: "We enter 1998 cautiously optimistic with an encouraging level of workload and opportunities." The shares fell 10p, to 295p.

Harvey Nash improves

HARVEY NASH, the IT recruitment services group, raised maiden full-year pre-tax profits from £3.66 million to £5.53 million in the year to January 31 on sales up from £36.3 million to £55.9 million. Earnings per share rose from 9.06p to 13.36p out of which a total dividend of 4.65p will be paid, 16 per cent up on the national dividend shown in the flotation prospectus. The shares fell from 454p to 440p. David Higgins, joint managing director, said the company is looking for expansion opportunities in northern Europe.

Japanese surplus rises 79%

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

PRESSURE on Japan to stimulate its ailing economy was expected to grow after its fiscal 1997 trade surplus, announced yesterday, showed a rise of 79.7 per cent, to ¥11.4 trillion (£5.5 billion), with strong export gains overshadowing a tiny rise in imports. It was the first rise in the surplus in five years, and reflected the yen's depreciation, which is helping Japanese exporters and making imports from most Western nations less attractive.

Bank of Japan data, meanwhile, suggested that Japan may be close to a deflationary spiral. The domestic wholesale price index for the first ten days of April showed prices falling 2.1 per cent from the same period of 1997. Import prices plunged by 7.4 per cent, attributed to sluggishness in world commodity prices and devaluation of other Asian currencies against the yen.

Exports and imports rose to record highs in fiscal 1997, but the 11.7 per cent rise in exports, to ¥51.4 trillion, dwarfed the 0.8 per cent rise in imports, to ¥39.9 trillion.



Brian Beal yesterday preparing for the flotation on Thursday of AB Airlines

AB Airlines has £25m tag

By JON ASHWORTH

AB Airlines, the carrier based at Gatwick, is coming to market via a placing at 95p a share, valuing the company at £25.3 million. The issue will raise £8.3 million towards new aircraft and route expansion. AB currently flies to Shannon, Lisbon and Berlin.

Brian Beal, the former Brymon Airways executive who co-founded AB in 1992, using the name Air Bristol, will hold shares and options worth nearly £600,000 at the placing price. Mr Beal, AB chairman, said he had invested "every penny I had" in the venture but would not disclose the value of his original stake.

Dealings in AB shares are to start on Thursday. The issue is sponsored and underwritten by Peel, Hunt. AB wants to upgrade from BAC 1-11 aircraft to Boeing 737s.

AB's prospectus states that Michael Beal, finance director, was a director of Executive Aviation Services, which went into creditors' voluntary liquidation in 1992, owing up to £1.4 million. AB made a £2 million pre-tax loss in 1997.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buy	Bank Sell
Australia \$	2.60	2.51
Austria Sch	22.28	20.83
Belgium Fr	66.67	61.65
Canada \$	2.20	2.32
Cyprus Cyp£	0.928	0.858
Denmark Kr	12.13	11.24
Finland Mk	8.74	8.99
France Fr	10.61	9.83
Germany DM	3.19	2.95
Greece Dr	549	510
Hong Kong \$	10.59	12.68
Iceland	152	112
Ireland P	1.25	1.17
Israel Sh	6.54	6.89
Italy Lit	3187	2850
Japan Yen	236.52	218.96
Netherlands Gld	0.694	0.625
New Zealand \$	3.97	3.92
Norway Kr	3.17	2.98
Portugal Esc	13.18	12.22
Spain Ptas	322.29	300.26
Switzerland Fr	8.17	8.21
Sweden Kr	263.51	249.73
Switzerland Fr	13.79	12.89
Turkey Lira	2.88	2.44
USA \$	4192.02	3929.22
USA \$	1.785	1.842

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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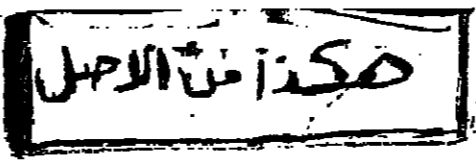
To tell the truth, elephants don't really have great memories. It's a myth. But if it's memory you want, you want the Aficio digital. Although we wouldn't recommend you try to ride or feed it peanuts, but it can perform amazing tricks of its own. For instance, Aficio can scan a set of documents and store them in its memory, then produce complete sets, one at a time, leaving you to remove your originals. You don't even have to wait for every page of every set to be completed. Simply grab your originals and let Aficio finish the job for you. You can also forget about those slow noisy sorting trays, because Aficio's sorting is digitally controlled. In fact, all you do have to remember is our phone number. You may even want to make that a trunk call.

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Credibility gap widens at Biotech

Investors in biotechnology companies are at risk of being blinded by science. They want to believe that the dream drugs will become world-beating realities but the majority will be disappointments. British Biotech stands accused of fueling investors' hopes and keeping them in the dark over disappointments. That, by most definitions, would amount to creating a false market. When directors deal in such conditions, it looks bad, and may be worse.

Which is why Keith McCullagh's position demands explanation. He is a rare combination of brilliant scientist and able manager whose forceful personality forms the bedrock of Britain's largest and most important biotechnology company. Until recently, British Biotech could claim to be developing the two most advanced novel drugs yet produced by this fledgling industry.

Unfortunately, it is increasingly hard to believe these optimistic assessments. For Dr McCullagh has a fatal flaw: he finds it hard to own up to bad news.

This has been apparent in a minor way for many months. As British Biotech has reluctantly backed away from its grand plan to form an international pharmaceutical company with its own sales and marketing organisation, the company has found it difficult to admit to any change of strategy.

But Dr McCullagh's failure to disclose the bad news reported by *The Times* in the past two days looks far more serious. In particular, it is hard to see how British Biotech could have got on last May's warning from the European Medicines Evaluation Agency that it had "major objections" to approving Zacetex for sale. Right up until February, and despite a setback with US trials of the drug last summer, British Biotech continued to suggest it was on schedule to launch Zacetex later this year. To an innocent observer, this comes awfully close to misleading the stock market.

British Biotech has displayed a similar lack of candour with cancer drug marimastat, the press releases on which have attracted the ire of both the US Food and Drug Administration and the Securities and Exchange Commission. Although largely UK owned, British Biotech insists this information was in the public domain because it was in a securities filing in the US.

Although much older, the biotech industry is just as worrying. British Biotech did not tell the stock market about its problems with this cancer drug until two months after it first learned

COMMENTARY by our City Editor

recognition. Instead of a purposeful march into the public peace-making arena, he chose delaying tactics. "Sort it out amongst yourselves," he told the organisations.

Since they espoused diametrically opposed views, this approach seemed unlikely to yield a workable solution. But there are indications that, behind the scenes, the Government has had to abandon its neutral stance. The industrial relations White Paper, due shortly, will propose a deal significantly closer to the CBI stance than that of the TUC, with an effective threshold being imposed rather than the simple majority vote which the unions felt should be enough to guarantee unions the right to recognition within a company.

This will still not be to the liking of some employers but, if at least 30 per cent of workers are to be required to vote in favour of union recognition, then it will ensure that a handful of activists

the definition of the workforce for the purposes of the ballot, and whether smaller companies should be exempt from the legislation.

But while he may not welcome public acclaim for sorting out this squabble, Mr Blair appears to have tacitly aligned himself with the business cause rather than the Brothers.

Will the butler do it at Nationwide?

NATIONWIDE members are to be given a second chance to decide the future of their building society, thanks to the good offices of Michael Hardern, the eccentric butler who, undeterred by his resounding defeat last summer, is again standing for election to the directors' board.

This time around, the contest promises to be a lot closer than last summer's 3:1 rebuff. Around 1 million more members will be eligible to cast votes in July's election, possibly a sufficient change in numbers to tip the balance away from the board and in favour of the speculators.

Among the voters are a reported 1 million carpetbaggers

who joined the society between April and November, when Nationwide began forcing new customers to donate any conversion windfalls to charity. You can bet your bonus, they will vote for Mr Hardern.

Even many of the 800,000 mortgage customers, included in the ballot for the first time, could be tempted by a cash prize of up to £2,000 in exchange for a slightly higher interest rate. After all, they can always move their mortgage to another mutual lender. If members do not take this chance to vote for conversion, they may not get a chance to do so again for some time. The society's rules stipulate that the board has no obligation to re-submit a twice-defeated motion to the vote until three years have elapsed. But at least Nationwide members have the chance to play some part, unlike their peers at Birmingham Midshires.

Luck of the draw

WHAT fearful symmetry. The Monetary Policy Committee led the trend, splitting four to four on the need for a hike in interest rates and forcing Eddie George to use his casting vote to stop a rise. Now the Treasury Select Committee has split four against four on fiscal policy. Chairman Giles Radice used his casting vote to prevent overt criticism of the Chancellor, Gordon Brown has profited from both. Can eight be his lucky number?

BG wins Egyptian franchise

BG, the company that owns Britain's gas pipeline grid, has won an exclusive franchise in Upper Egypt. BG and its partners in the Nile Valley Gas Company (NVGC) will spend \$220 million (£130 million) developing a pipeline and transmission system to deliver gas from fields in the Nile Delta to industry and consumers in the upper reaches of the Nile Valley.

BG will invest some \$82 million in the project, representing its 37.5 per cent stake in NVGC. Its partners include Edison International, part of the Italian Montedison group, Orascom and Middle East Gas Association.

IMI sale

IMI, the international engineering group, yesterday finalised the sale of its waterheating businesses to Newmond, the privately owned building products group, for £20 million in cash. Newmond, which counts Rawplug and Smallbone as kitchens among its brands, is planning a stock market flotation within the next two years.

The company was formed in December 1996 via a £360 million management buyout from Williams Holdings, the industrial group.

IBC ahead

IBC, the conferences and publishing group chaired by Lord Rees-Mogg, yesterday said it had up to £35 million in borrowings to spend on acquisitions. IBC increased pre-tax profit 19 per cent to £15.7 million to £16.3 million in the year to December 31. Earnings per share rose 10 per cent from 27.8p to 30.6p, and a final dividend of 6.8p, up from 6p, will be paid on May 29, giving a total of 10.5p.

Fred Perry group sues over £6m alleged fraud

FRED PERRY Sportswear, the tennis and clothing group founded by the three times Wimbledon tennis champion, is suing the widow of its former managing director over an alleged £6 million fraud.

The London company, together with its US parent, Figgie International, has served a writ on Janet Lack in connection with the activities of her late husband, Harry Lack, who was managing director of Fred Perry from 1989 until his death in 1993. She is being sued as the executor and beneficiary of his estate.

According to the writ, Mr Lack used his £55,000-a-year position to set up a web of fraudulent transactions costing Fred Perry Sportswear a total of more than £6.5 million.

Citigroup merger under microscope

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

THE two-week-old \$140 billion (£83.8 billion) merger of Travelers Group and Citicorp, the world's biggest financial group, will face intense scrutiny from anti-trust regulators. The US Justice Department yesterday said it will take charge of the investigation and may co-operate with Congress on the revision of banking regulations.

Anti-trust investigations in America are done by either the Justice Department or the Federal Trade Commission. Of the two, the Justice Department has been much more aggressive in recent months, prompting Wall Street to talk of Citigroup, as the new bank will be known, having drawn its first short straw.

Earlier this year, the department took aim at the \$37 billion tie-up of WorldCom and MCI, then the world's biggest merger. The Justice Department will also have a big influence on Congress, which has to rewrite the Glass-Steagall Act which separated consumer and investment banking after the Great Depression.

Travelers Group reported first-quarter earnings up more than 34 per cent on last year, boosted by strong results at its Salomon Smith Barney brokerage unit. The company earned \$1.09 billion (£815 million).



Cutting its cloth: Angus Monro, chief executive of Matalan

Matalan flotation heralds expansion

MATALAN, the out-of-town fashion discount chain, aims to almost treble the number of its motorway-side warehouse outlets after it raises £15 million through a stock market flotation next month.

The company, which has 75 stores across the UK, intends to take its portfolio to 200 by spending up to £90 million on an expansion drive.

John Hargreaves, chairman and founder, who will be worth £160 million after the flotation, said the company is in talks to acquire some struggling B&Q stores from Kingfisher, with which it was in takeover talks four years ago.

It plans to invest up to £450,000 on each new store, and buy £250,000 of stock. It intends to open ten this year and has already been paid £450,000 to take on a loss-making B&Q superstore at Aberdeen.

Matalan, whose chief executive is Angus Monro and is expected to be valued at £200 million, bills itself as selling the same quality clothes as shoppers find in the high street chains, but at a 40 per cent discount.

It has identified Asda's George clothing range as its nearest competitor. It buys 60 per cent of its goods direct from manufacturers, and buys just under half from overseas.

The flotation will reduce Mr Hargreaves's holding from 85 to 65 per cent. He will remain executive chairman and, under clauses in the flotation prospectus, will be able to continue working past the age of 70.

News Corp buys into Russian telecoms

NEWS CORPORATION yesterday made its first move into European telecommunications and Russia by buying a stake in PLD Telekom, which specialises in providing advanced telecommunications services to the former Soviet Union.

Under the deal News America, a News Corp subsidiary, will pay Cable & Wireless, the telecommunications group, £48 million for a 38 per cent interest in PLD. News Corp, the parent company of *The Times*, said it was in turn negotiating to sell half of its interest in PLD to LogoVAZ, a Russian industrial conglomerate.

The secondary deal implies that, in LogoVAZ, News Corp has identified a partner for future expansion in a market of 158 million people — expansion that is likely to be in both telecoms and the media.

PLD, primarily a US company, has already installed state-of-the-art telecommunications infrastructure in the former Soviet Union. It uses satellites and fibre optic systems to deliver the latest services to the business community and those parts of the residential market that can pay. The networks can handle pay-per-view television services as well as advanced data and telecommunications.

News Corp declined to speculate on the deal's significance, but in a formal statement Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive, said the deal allowed News Corp "to be part of a company that is prepared to capitalise on the growth of telecommunications services in this market".

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T&F pair to get £34m from float

BY CHRIS AVRES

TWO academics are set to make about £17 million each through family trusts when Taylor & Francis Group, the publisher, floats on the stock market next month.

Professor David Banister, 47, a transport expert at University College London and a non-executive director of the company, will enjoy the windfall with Elzora Ferguson, 68, a retired mathematician and economist who is the company's non-executive vice chairman. Each will sell a significant proportion of their shares at the flotation. Another 17 per cent of the company is owned by 3i, the venture capitalist.

T&F, which owns 150 scientific and academic journals and which will publish 600 books this year, said it would raise about £15 million through the flotation, which would be spent on acquisitions.

T&F recently appointed Angus Macdonald, the part-time chairman of Scottish Media Group, as non-executive chairman. Derek Mapp, the founder of the Tom Cobleigh pub chain was also recently appointed as a non-executive director.

Anthony Selvey, chief executive, said he saw enormous growth in the high-quality academic books and journals market. However, he added that growth in the company's electronic publishing activities had been slower than expected.

Menzies Hotels puts off listing

MENZIES HOTELS has postponed plans for a market listing after finding little appetite among City institutions (Dominic Walsh writes).

Nick Menzies, chief executive, had hoped for a market capitalisation of £50 million, which would have raised £15 million, but investors are thought to have been unwilling to pay more than £40 million. Mr Menzies said he saw "no need to sell shares too cheaply".

The inability of Menzies to get the price it wanted reflects the concerns that have dogged Thistle Hotels and Jarvis Hotels since they came to the market in 1996. Thistle, floated at 170p, is currently at 174p, while Jarvis is still 3½p below its 175p launch price.

Tempus, page 32

Trafford Park merger talks

TRAFFORD PARK Estates, the Manchester property company, has confirmed that it is in merger talks with Barlows, its northwest England rival (Robert Cole writes).

Trafford Park, a leading commercial property company in the North West, has a market capitalisation of £112 million. Barlows is smaller, worth about £30 million, but it is thought that Barlows is driving the merger discussions. Trafford Park has a broad spread of interests. It owns, manages and develops property, but its focus is in the commercial sector.

A terse statement from Trafford Park said that it was "in discussions which may or may not lead to a merger of its business with that of Barlows".

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Turnover	£162.2m	£162.1m
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Net assets per share	222p	214p

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MICHAEL CLARK Stock Market Writer of the Year

Bid talk puts Highland shares on the high road

JUST like the worst hangovers, bid speculation at Highland Distilleries refuses to fade away. The shares raked up a further 12p to 308 1/2p as several large lines of stock went through the market...



Peter Rigby, chief executive of IBC, who announced a 20 per cent rise in the publisher's pre-tax profits to £16 million

holds 6.8 million shares, or 14.53 per cent of the shares. Peter was floated last week. It was easier at 143p. Westmount paid just £500,000 for the stake which is now worth almost £10 million.

Share prices generally rallied following last week's sell-off that saw the FTSE 100 fall more than 180 points. But they failed to hold their best levels of the day after a flat start on Wall Street with investors also turning cautious ahead of today's inflation numbers.

ICI advanced 13p to £11.10 despite the prospect of increased competition for its paints division following Akzo Nobel's agreed £1.8 billion bid for Courtaulds, up 7 1/2p at 450p.

SmithKline Beecham attracted a number of admirers ahead of first quarter results later today. Talk in the market claimed SBC Warburg Dillon Read had upgraded its recommendation and there were also positive comments from NatWest Markets and Lehman Brothers.

Some bearish comments from Morgan Stanley, the US securities house, led Cadbury Schweppes down 13p at 860p. It says the confectionery and soft drinks group is losing market share in the US.

Home News at £58.6 million. Results from IBC Group came in towards the top end of expectations lifting the price 16 1/2p to 456p.

The speculators were also rushing into Save Group, up 12 1/2p at 102 1/2p, despite the group's attempts at playing down bid stories.

Mice Group rose 3 1/2p to 17 1/4p after a near 40 per cent jump in profits. Beeson Gregory, the broker, has raised its forecast for the exhibition display designer and manufacturer to £3.25 million.

Trafford Park Estates firmed 2 1/2p to 162 1/2p after entering talks with rival Barlows, lp dealer at 62 1/2p. Trafford is expected to make an all-paper offer for Barlows creating a joint company worth £140 million.

Teletext, which last week made an agreed bid for General Cable worth 65p a share, firmed 2 1/2p to 89p after some positive comments from Merrill Lynch, the broker. It has upgraded its recommendation on the shares from "neutral" to "accumulate" in addition to raising its target price to 120p to 140p.

Yates Brothers has become the latest company to come under the scrutiny of ace share tipster Jim Slater with the price climbing 2 1/2p to 465p. He has also taken a fancy to International Greetings, up 60 1/2p at 457 1/2p.

GILT edged: There was little response from the bond market to some encouraging comments on interest rates over the weekend from Charles Goodhart, a member of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee.

NEW YORK: The Dow Jones industrial average was down 38.61 to 9,128.99 at midday as blue chips fell, hit by a weak bond market that inspired profit-taking on last week's record run.

World indices table with columns for location and index values (New York, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, London).

ARM Hlds table with columns for company name and price (Aberdeen, Advent 2 VCT, Desire Petroleum, Do 85% Crv Ln 2005, Do Zero Div Pfd, Eurotel 01/03 Rev, Express Dairies, Guardian IT, Harford Grp, ILL Group, Microcap Growth Trst, Murray VCT 3 (100), Otakar, Oxford Gyroscopes, Quaster VCT 2, Safestone, Transport Dev B, VI Group).

RIGHTS ISSUES table with columns for company name and price (Guinness Ft n/p, Memory Corp n/p, Radstone Tech n/p).

RISKS table with columns for company name and price (DFS Furniture, Yates Bros, Abbey, Air London, Photobit, EMI, MITE Gp, Livead, Hamleys, Orange, Go-Ahead, Br Airways, Reed Int, Sun Life & P).

Other Sterling table with columns for company name and price (Argentine dollar, Australian dollar, Brazil real, Chilean peso, Hong Kong dollar, Indian rupee, Indonesian rupiah, Japanese yen, Malaysian ringgit, New Zealand dollar, Pakistani rupee, Saudi Arabian riyal, South African rand, U A E Dirham, U A E Dirham, U A E Dirham).

Money Rates table with columns for bank and rate (Prime Bank Bills, Discount Market Loans, Treasury Bills, Overnight, Local Authority Depos, Sterling CD's, Dollar CD's, Building Society CD's).

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS table with columns for bank and rate (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland).

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS table with columns for item and price (Gold, Silver, Platinum, Palladium).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES table with columns for bank and rate (Mitsubishi, Standard Chartered, Citibank, HSBC, Paribas, etc).

TEMPUS A Nobel cause

IF AKZO NOBEL can forecast an instant earnings uplift from taking over Courtaulds, even without assuming a penny of savings, it would be strange if the British company were not being courted by rival bidders.

Strange but probably true. The attraction of Courtaulds lies in its coatings business and a number of companies - Sherwin-Williams, PPG, DuPont and ICI - would pay a hefty price for the market leader in marine and aerospace coatings. Unfortunately, most of these companies would also pay through the nose to avoid any exposure to fibres. The viscose and acrylic operations of Courtaulds make a very effective poison pill, leaving Akzo a free run.

EM I getting understandably irritated by the takeover rumours that dog its every move. If the music company wants someone to blame, it should perhaps look to its chairman, Sir Colin Southgate, who thinks that saving the Royal Opera House is a suitable job to take on while EM I continues to perform dimly.

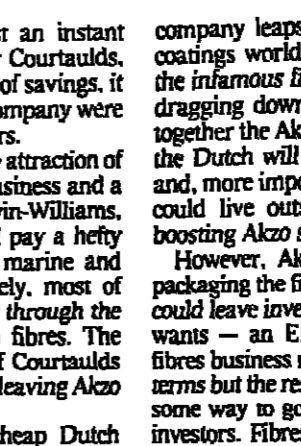
Whether EM I like it or not, the current share price of less than £5 and the continuing management debacle make it a sitting duck. Even cautious analysts admit that a takeover bid is as inevitable as another Beatles compilation album.

There are other compelling reasons for a deal. The music market is sluggish and the troubled Asian economies will bring more bad debts and provisions, making consolidation the only obvious way to achieve growth.

Hotels NICK MENZIES can be forgiven for wondering at the lack of interest in his hotel company's flotation plans. He must have thought his timing was perfect: business has never been better, while the trickle of big American investors targeting the European hotel sector is becoming a flood.

What Mr Menzies has learnt is that there is a world of difference between the Savoy and the Inter-Continental, and the Angel Hotel in Market Harborough. He may have been looking for a market capitalisation of just £50 million - Savoy and Inter-Continental sold for £520 million and £1.78 billion - but even that was too high.

Hotels is suffering a delayed hangover from the boom in hotel issues of 1996. By the autumn of that year, when Thisle followed Jarvis Hotels to the market, the City was getting indigestion, and



FACING THE MUSIC

EM I has decided that Sir Colin would not become chief executive.

The placing, at 95p a share, and capitalises AB at £25.3 million. There is no track record of earnings, making forecasting difficult. AB might deliver - it is not another "no-frills" carrier, seeking instead to provide "interlining" services, whisking arriving passengers on to places like Lisbon and Berlin.

Not with a barge-pole was how one City analyst summed up the forthcoming flotation of AB Airlines, the tiny Garwick-based carrier that has only flown since October 1993. Its paper-thin track record shows pre-tax losses more than doubling to £2 million last year, although this is not unusual at this stage of an airline's development.

In two of the past three years, Ernst & Young, AB's auditor, has referred to "a matter of fundamental uncertainty" relating to AB's financing. This was all down to having funds available to match route expansion - something the float will address - but it serves to remind of the risks.

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That said, it is bound to find itself competing with "cheaper" like Ryanair and Go, but not to mention GO, BA's new secret weapon. Investing in new routes will keep AB in the red for now.

Allied such as that signed with Aer Lingus point to a rosier future, but the feeling persists that this is going to be a bumpy ride.

EDITED BY DOMINIC WALSH

Table with columns for company name and price (Coco, Robusta Coffee, White Sugar, Meat & Livestock).

Table with columns for company name and price (Londron Metal Exchange, Liffe, IBC Group, etc).

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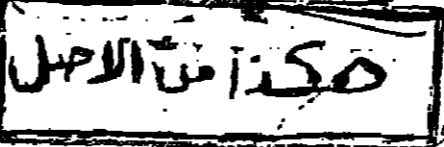
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Dinner party guests sound too alike

THE BUSINESS OF POLITICS



ALASDAIR MURRAY

Do businessmen invite only like-minded guests to their dinner parties? The certainty with which both the pro and anti EMU camps express their belief that they are in a clear majority suggests that their guests lists are vetted to reflect the desired view on Europe. Sure, there may be the odd opponent who creeps through the system to sit sullen-faced at the corner of the table—Sir Stanley Kalms on the Confederation of British Industry council, for instance—but they appear to be only token examples.

In contrast, politicians seem to be treating the single currency, like sex and religion, as a topic unsuitable for polite conversation. Both have devised formulas to keep all the guests happy for the moment—while there are no really tough decisions to make. The Government, in particular, has done remarkably well to keep the

the broadly pro CBI, with a number of CBI luminaries feeling obliged to respond. There have even been dark mutterings that certain influential business leaders are set to resign from one organisation or another—Lord Wolfson from the CBI, Sir Bryan Nicholson from the IoD—because of the European stance taken by the leadership. However, both sides seem content to fight a guerrilla campaign from within the respective organisations for the time being.

At the heart of the spat is the issue of just how representative the two main business groupings are. Both pros and antis

genuinely believe that they have the support of the silent majority and their opponents are merely good at making a lot of noise. This has led to the battle of the polls, with the IoD rubbing a CBI survey that showed strong business backing for the euro, despite a response rate of only about 30 per cent. In turn the CBI has questioned the IoD's sampling techniques, which (surprise, surprise) produced a thumping anti majority. Observers could be forgiven for believing that the argument proves little beyond the old adage that you can use an opinion poll to prove anything. The IoD has also been tempt-

ed to portray the CBI's pro feelings as evidence that its agenda has been hijacked by a small number of self-interested big businesses. However, the CBI also uses its regional councils to gauge smaller business opinion, and the split may well reflect the different form of membership of the two organisations rather than a divide between small and large businesses. The CBI is a corporate organisation with companies rather than individuals represented on the board. IoD membership is on a personal basis.

The IoD wants to break the impasse by launching a formal campaign against the euro. Several senior members, including Lord Young, have been linked with a £10 million anti-euro group being put together by senior sceptics such as Baroness Thatcher.

Ruth Lea, head of policy at the IoD, admits that the organisation would like to support a

Dressing an old campaign in new clothes

Only the lure of sound commercial benefit could cause the likes of Marks & Spencer, Bhs and Selfridges to put self-interest aside and hop into bed with one another. Along with manufacturers such as Levi Strauss and Baird Menswear, these retailers have united to form a marketing alliance to persuade British men to spend more money on more expensive clothes.

From next month a generic marketing campaign will challenge some of the nation's most reluctant shoppers to "dress for success" and follow the example set by their wives and girlfriends, who regard shopping as an enjoyable leisure activity. Marketing literature will steer them to participating stores that will be identified by a campaign logo in the shop window.

By highlighting the benefits of good dressing more men will, hopefully, spend more money in those shops.

Such unassailable commercial logic must prove a convincing argument to any company doubtful of the benefits such a campaign could bring. But then anyone presenting a marketing ploy that could accelerate growth in the sluggish UK menswear market would be granted an audience.

Mintel, the market research company, found that of the £20 billion spent by British adults on fashion in 1997, women spent £13.6 billion, while men spent a comparatively meagre £6.4 billion. The average British man spends about £250 a year on clothes. And on top of this, according to industry statistics, projected growth rates are less than 3 per cent a year. It is not surprising then that companies that normally compete for a share of that spend are prepared to bury the hatchet and work together to enlarge the market as a whole.

But is it the right route for the fashion industry? The last time this was attempted was in the 1940s, with a campaign that encouraged people to buy more hats. Reconsidering the idea has prompted the British Clothing Industry Association (BCIA), the architects of the campaign, to cast a glance at other industries that have used this method of marketing. Until now generic campaigns have been largely confined to commodities, such as tea, milk, sugar and meat. Often initiated as a

stop-gap measure to halt a decline in sales or counter negative perceptions, they have met with mixed results.

The Meat & Livestock Commission, which spends £20 million a year marketing all meat products, has succeeded in putting beef back on the menu with its reassuring "Quality" rosette on packs of mince. Its "Meat for Life" campaign has also shored-up meat's position against the rising tide of vegetarianism.

Other campaigns have not been so well-timed. One of the largest of recent years was launched by the two companies that fought it out for dominance of the sugar market—Tate & Lyle and British Sugar. Over a three-year period they sought to project sugar as the "natural fuel for life". Unfortunately, the campaign coincided with a barrage of anti-sugar feeling in the media and the medical profession. By the time the two companies pulled the plug on the campaign in 1992, they had spent £12 million and failed to reverse the slide in the retail sugar market.

Similarly, the tea industry mounted its own campaign in the 1970s to persuade the British public not to take the national drink for granted. By the time the campaign drew to a close in 1982, the tea growers and brand owners were spending £6 million a year on marketing.

Seventeen years on, the tea industry faces even fiercer competition but a repeat of the "Tea—best drink of the day" campaign would be out of the question, according to Ihtyd Lewis, executive director of the Tea Council. He said: "Companies were thinking much more in the long term then; they saw Britain as a stronghold of tea. Now they are concerned more with the short term. I don't think shareholders would accept the burden of a generic campaign."

It doesn't take a genius to work out that there is a world of difference between marketing a topside of beef and marketing a pair of chinos. Although there are identifiable brands in sugar and tea, at the end of the day they are just commodities.

Although the campaigners will stop short of evangelising in attempting to change cultural attitudes they face a difficult task.

JULIAN LEE

Exporters' words of wisdom are wrongly judged as whingeing

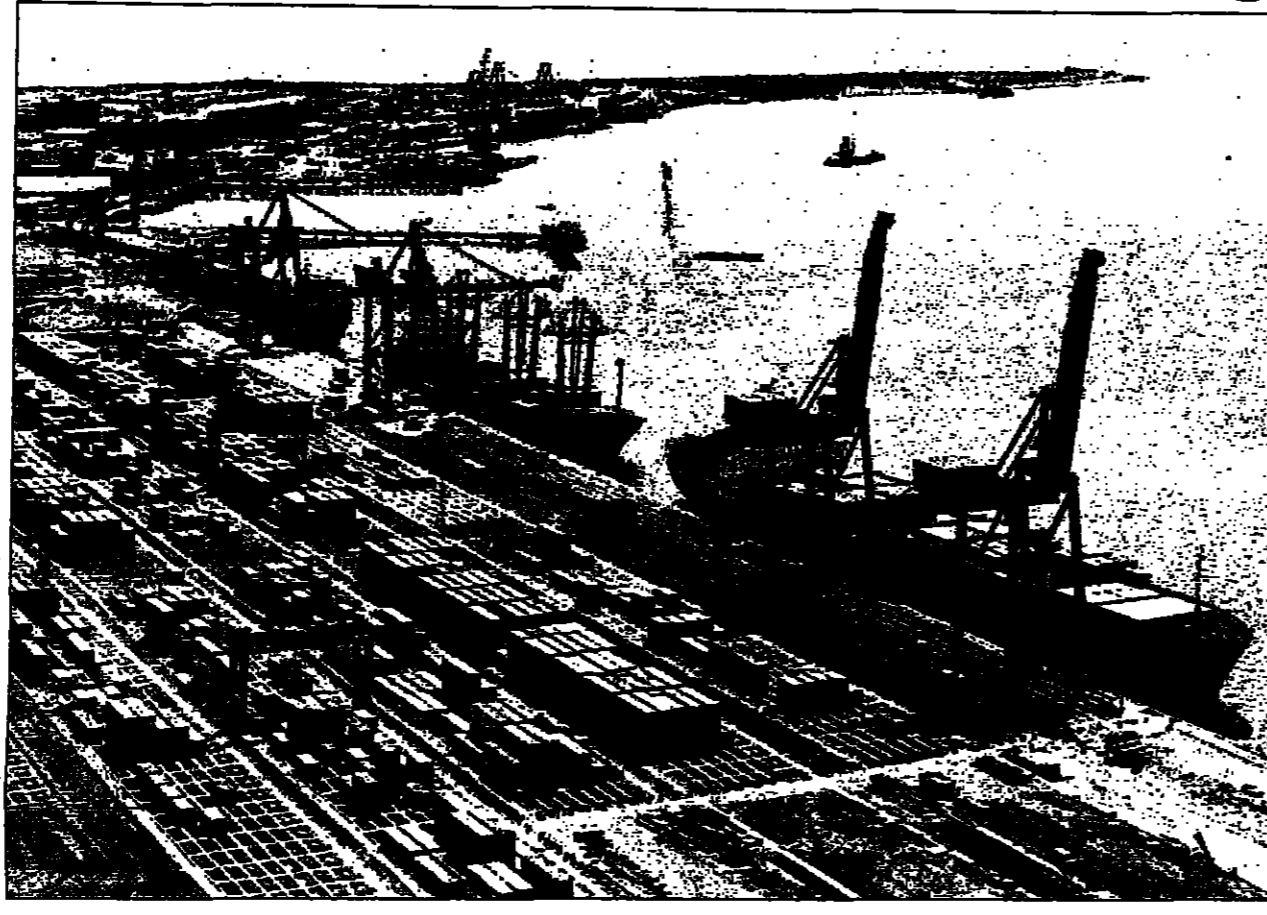
It has become *de rigeur* recently to brand exporters as "whingeing". In letters to *The Times*, City commentators and on radio and television, armchair economists pontificate that exporters have had it too easy for too long and that they must learn to live with the strong pound. I should like to set the record straight. Exporters are not whingeing. Like any group in a democracy, they are quite legitimately drawing to the attention of a somewhat naive Gordon Brown and a Bank of England Governor whose hands are tied by the Chancellor the need for different policies. Given that trade generates a third of gross domestic product in the UK and that one job in three depends directly or indirectly on overseas business, their voices ought to be heard.

Mr Brown is a very shrewd and erudite man and a canny Scot. But he has made two serious errors of judgment in the past 12 months. The first was to allow himself to be painted into a corner over taxation by Labour manifesto writers. Labour believed it had lost the 1992 election because it told the truth about the need for tax rises and therefore committed itself in 1997 to Conservative spending plans and ruled out income tax increases. This was unnecessary. In the 12 months before the 1997 election, Labour had a huge lead in the polls and its defenceless on tax was unduly paranoid.

Armed with a huge victory, Mr Brown could easily have persuaded a euphoric public of the case for tax increases to restrain consumer demand, blaming the Tories for leaving behind a fiscal mess. Instead, he has done the worst possible thing and directed tax rises at British companies.

The Chancellor's second mistake was to make the Bank of England semi-independent. The Bank was given the job of setting interest rates, but the Treasury retained the right to set inflation targets. This is akin to asking a committee to reduce road deaths to a prescribed level, but only allowing them to adjust speed limits. They are given no control over the quality of road surfaces or street lighting, vehicle safety standards, driver education, drink-driving policy or any of the other myriad factors that impact on this issue.

Sterling's strength is partly due to these mistakes but also partly because of Britain's re-



Ian Campbell, director-general of The Institute of Export, tells Chancellor Gordon Brown that it is not too late to change economic policies that have exacerbated the crippling effects of the strong pound on UK manufacturing

cent economic successes, to which exporters have made a considerable contribution. Exports led Britain out of the last recession, with sales growing at an average 12 per cent per year between 1992 and 1996.

This success was not entirely due to the pound's weakness after it left the exchange-rate mechanism, although it clearly helped. The opening of the European single market in 1993 gave a tremendous fillip to those who had previously ignored, or been afraid of attempting, overseas business. Many new firms took their first tentative global steps, usually starting with nearby western European markets.

The pound's strength has also been a function of weakness in European economies as an earlier stage of recovery than Britain's. In addition, there is a conviction in the financial markets that the euro will be a relatively soft currency. Once Britain's entry into the

single currency was ruled out for this parliament and interest rates were raised to double the level prevailing in most of Europe, investors saw sterling as a one-way bet. The simple fact is that the pound's more than 30 per cent appreciation since August 1996 is making it far more difficult to sell UK goods overseas, especially in Europe.

Export prices and contracts are routinely negotiated for periods of at least a year, so many exporters have had to cut sterling prices both to remain competitive and to adhere to prices agreed in their customers' currencies. Many smaller companies, relatively new to exporting, have tried to keep margins as low as possible to secure market entry. For them, cutting prices by 30 per cent is just not possible.

The armchair economists argue that price is not the only determinant. I could not agree more. Over the past decade, UK manufacturing industry has driven forward the bound-

aries of research and design. It has revolutionised its approach to marketing, packaging and after-sales service and has achieved quantum leaps in supply chain management, delivery and quality.

But in some businesses, price is still key. In the 1980s, the UK vehicle components industry was fragmented and lagged woefully in design, quality and sales. Inward investment changed all that. When Nissan, Toyota and Peugeot demanded high-quality parts for their UK assembly plants, the industry responded magnificently.

The sedentary pundits say that British industry should respond by becoming more efficient. Again, I entirely agree. The UK languishes far too low down international competitiveness league tables.

Productivity gains come from investment in new technology and training, both of which cost money, which British companies, at the moment, do not have.

British firms are hobbled by high interest rates and an unhelpful borrowing culture. A significant number of companies still finance working capital needs from overdrafts—and real interest rates are 4 to 5 per cent higher than those in competitor countries. It is difficult to raise the investment capital to develop the new products and processes necessary to secure future profitability.

High interest rates also exacerbate problems of cashflow. Export orders are often larger in volume and value than home market orders and payment

often takes longer. Financing the purchase of raw materials, production, shipment and delayed payment can take six months or longer, adding another 7 or 8 per cent to costs.

Pundits note that manufacturing now accounts for about 20 per cent of overall GDP. But it accounts for 50 per cent of exporting activity. Britain's service industries are booming but let us not forget that if manufacturing industry is allowed to ossify or die many of its customers will disappear. There is a limit to the number of pension plans and pensions we can sell each other if a third of us have no jobs.

How can one respond to the argument that Japan and Germany were able to sell successfully into world markets despite strong currencies?

For one thing, German and Japanese exporters did not carry the double burdens of currency strength and rampant interest rates. These countries also protected their home markets with trade barriers—no longer possible in the single market and under World Trade Organisation rules—and were able to cross-subsidise their export businesses. Both countries enjoyed considerably more subsidy and export support than available to Britain, both had the advantage of high levels of public and private investment in training, both operated within a much longer-term lending culture.

Cynics might suggest that Germany now means to lock in its exchange-rate advantage against Britain permanently by encouraging Italy, Spain, Belgium and even Greece into a soft single currency.

The Chancellor needs to take a grip of the whole economy. If consumer spending and overheating in the services sector is causing him concern, then he should dampen demand by using fiscal measures. If his political probity insists that he keeps to his manifesto promises on direct taxes, then he must use indirect taxes. Many of our European partners use variable VAT rates to tax luxuries more heavily than necessities. US states levy varying rates of sales tax.

With a huge parliamentary majority and some years left for New Labour's honeymoon, now is the time to take the tough decisions needed to get interest rates down soon—before it is too late for many of our smaller manufacturers and exporters and the jobs that they provide.

Rum do

NO SOONER have my dear friends, Stephen Hinchliffe and Christopher Harrison, taken possession of Knoydart, the 16,000-acre estate in close proximity to the Sound of Rum on the west coast of Scotland, than they will be entertaining some excited guests. None other than Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, is to holiday there over Whitsun.

The gregarious minister reveals that he is a keen fan of the Knoydart peninsula, where he likes to hike. However, this visit is for the 50th birthday of a "close friend". Who? I ask. This apparently is a secret, though I do not suppose it is either Hinchliffe or Harrison, since neither reach the magical five-oh this side of the millennium.

Yesterday, I contacted the minister's office to check that he was aware of the new Lairds of Knoydart and the Serious Fraud Office's interest in them. A spokesman said Smith's visit was a private matter and he was sure the minister was up with events. That's alright then.



Smith: up with events as he heads off to party

Funny bond

ANYBODY who has been across the pond recently will have noticed the obsession with *Seinfeld*, the mildly funny sitcom shortly coming to an end of its run. Now it seems viewers can participate financially in the star can participate financially in the eponymous Jerry Seinfeld, star of the eponymous television series, is going to issue Seinfeld bonds. The neurotic New Yorker is signing all his royalty copyrights over to an investment company that in turn issues bonds pay-



able from the revenue stream. This type of financial instrument—known as Bowie bonds—was first used by David Bowie, who "secured" \$30 million of royalties last year. Seinfeld watchers will eagerly wait and see if bonds are priced at \$9 each, as nine is the magic number he obsesses about in the sitcom.

Flat refusal

I AM horrified to find that today's auction of items owned by the late Yamauchi International (UK) will not include about 125 of the juiciest ornaments—namely those kept in the col-

lapsed Japanese brokers' luxury Knightsbridge flat in London. It seems that lots 726 to 830 could not be viewed because the other residents of 8/11 Palace Gate were concerned about a stream of siks tramping in and out to see what was on offer.

But I have good news for anyone interested in, say, a mahogany finish combination cocktail drinks cabinet or a Zojirushi automatic rice cooker or even ten assorted dried flower displays. The auctioneers—Henry Boucher & Co.—will be removing the said items to a safe place, where interested parties can view and buy by appointment sometime soon.

JASON NISSÉ

Nanny state

ROGER PARRY, the big mop at More Group, is having to eat humble pie after flatly denying that his French rival Jean-François Decaux had contacted him before launching a bid for his outdoor advertising group. Parry, who described Decaux's stock-exchange announcement as "a very expensive postcard", has discovered that he was indeed contacted hours before the bid was launched through one of his closest advisers. "Apparently they called my children's nanny," he tells me through gritted teeth. "It must be the only takeover bid in history to have been launched with a call to a nanny."



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Main table containing unit trust prices for various funds, organized in columns with headers for fund names and prices.

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صحة من الأعمال

Shares close below best of day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
0.85	0.84	Heavenly Breweries	0.85	+0.01	15.2
BANKS					
1.20	1.19	Bank of Africa	1.20	+0.01	12.5
1.10	1.09	Bank of Africa	1.10	+0.01	12.5
BREWERIES, PUBS & REST					
1.80	1.78	Heavenly Breweries	1.80	+0.02	15.2
DIVERSIFIED IND - FINAN					
2.50	2.48	Standard Bank	2.50	+0.02	18.5
BUILDING MATERIALS					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
CHEMICALS					
1.20	1.19	Bank of Africa	1.20	+0.01	12.5
CONSTRUCTION					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
DISTRIBUTORS					
1.20	1.19	Bank of Africa	1.20	+0.01	12.5
ELECTRONIC					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
ELECTRONIC					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
ENGINEERIN					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
INDUSTRIAL					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
INSURANCE					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
LEISURE & HOTELS					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
MINING					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
OIL & GAS					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
PROPERTY					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
RETAILERS, FOOD					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
RETAILERS, GENERAL					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
SUPPORT SERVICES					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
TRANSPORT					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
WATER					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
INVESTMENT FUNDS					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
MEDIA					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
PHARMACEUTICALS					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
PRINTING & PAPER					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
OTHER FINANCIAL					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
PROPERTY					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
RETAILERS, FOOD					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
RETAILERS, GENERAL					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
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TRANSPORT					
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WATER					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
SHORTS (under 5 years)					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
LONGS (over 15 years)					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
UNDATED					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
INDEX-LINKED (on projected inflation of 5%)					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
INDEX-LINKED (on projected inflation of 5%)					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
INDEX-LINKED (on projected inflation of 5%)					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
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1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
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INDEX-LINKED (on projected inflation of 5%)					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
OTHER FINANCIAL					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
PHARMACEUTICALS					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
PRINTING & PAPER					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
PROPERTY					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
RETAILERS, FOOD					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
RETAILERS, GENERAL					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
SUPPORT SERVICES					
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TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
TRANSPORT					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
WATER					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2
ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET					
1.50	1.48	Heavenly Breweries	1.50	+0.02	15.2

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A toff and no mistake

Henry Moore's centenary is marked by a National Gallery show revealing his debt to Old Masters. Richard Cork reports

From ancient paint to modern shape

Many outstanding 20th-century sculptors, Matisse and Picasso among them, saw themselves primarily as painters. Henry Moore, by contrast, concentrated his redoubtable energies on sculpture and graphic work. But his imagination was constantly replenished by looking at great paintings, and nowhere more intently than in the National Gallery.

Child, carved during the Second World War, still owed a debt to the dignified severity of the National Gallery painting. Even in the small bronze version of the Northampton sculpture displayed here, Moore's instinctive feeling for bodily power is conveyed. The mother's shoulders are immense, providing protection for the surprisingly small, defenceless infant on her capacious lap.

Moore's debt to its collection was repaid when he agreed to serve on the gallery's board. He stayed there for 18 years, and remains the only sculptor to have become a National Gallery trustee. Now, to mark the centenary of his birth, the gallery has mounted a show charting his long involvement with the collection.

Not that Moore was attracted solely to the sternest images in the National Gallery. He also delighted in the pink, glistening sensuality of Rubens's *The Judgement of Paris*. All three semi-naked women vying for the prize apple are plump, and their heaviness must have appealed to Moore as he searched for a similar amplitude in his early carvings. But an ink copy of the central nude in Rubens's painting, drawn during Moore's time as a London student in the early 1920s, does not emphasise her fleshiness. Diving her of the drape she wears in *The Judgement*, he discloses a slightly slimmer nude more suited to 20th-century taste.



6 Moore's imagination was constantly replenished by seeing great paintings?

It is a stirring and affectionate tribute. Organised by Margaret McLeod, a trustee of the Henry Moore Foundation, its emphasis is rightly placed on a choice array of the paintings Moore admired most at Trafalgar Square. His own sculpture is restricted to small bronzes in showcases, leaving plenty of room for the canvases to assert their grandeur.

Even so, her sturdiness is unmistakable. If the drawing were turned on its side, we would find a horizontal woman closely allied to the recumbent figures Moore began carving later in the same decade.

Men rarely appear in his own work, and only one of Moore's favourite National Gallery pictures focuses on an adult male. Acquired in 1957, during his first spell as a trustee, *An Old Man in an Armchair* was then attributed to Rembrandt. Moore drew it in fuzzy charcoal towards the end of his life, using it as a springboard for a meditation on his own experience of advancing years. The weight he had stressed in his work here seems on the verge of dissolution, reflecting a new concern with frailty.

After he died, the painting suffered demotion. It is now regarded as the work of an unknown pupil or early follower of Rembrandt. But no such fate can ever overcome the two paintings by Cézanne, whom Moore regarded as "probably the key figure in my lifetime". The smaller canvas, *An Old Woman with a Rosary*, was purchased in 1953, two years before he joined the National Gallery board. But he venerated the painting, making special visits to scrutinise Cézanne's gaunt, tough worshipper reportedly based on a former nun who had escaped from her convent. Moore talked of his particular admiration for the woman's bunched and leathery hands. He would also have sympathised with Cézanne's clearly visible struggle to build up the bulk of her left shoulder and arm, piling layer upon layer until he arrived at a craggy, enduring presence.



"An ideal foil for the elemental solemnity of the great original hanging near by": Henry Moore's *Three Bathers*—After Cézanne and below, its National Gallery inspiration, *Bathers*



THE NATIONAL GALLERY, LONDON

Moore responded to this sense of weathered durability, and found it above all in Cézanne's paintings of bathers. He bought a modest early example for his own collection, and regarded it as "the joy of my life". In 1978 he modelled a delightfully free, playful homage to the painting. Hefty though his three bronze women are, they splash and gesticulate with irresistible gusto. They also provide an ideal foil for the elemental solemnity of the great Cézanne *Bathers* hanging near by.

In 1922, Moore was profoundly impressed by a closely related version of this late canvas on a visit to the Pellier collection in Paris. The memory of those nudes, "lying on the ground as if they had been sliced out of mountain rock", surely exerted a fundamental influence on his own primordial carvings of the reclining woman-as-landscape.

AROUND THE GALLERIES

IT SEEMS appropriate that John Pelling's show should open the day after the results of a survey on how clergymen treat women priests were published. Pelling, a priest by vocation and a painter by training, has always celebrated the sensual vibrancy of life and women — bright, bold and bosomy — have always been a theme. But he now turns his art to polemical purpose, protesting against the ordination of women priests. In his mammoth canvases, tiny clergymen crouch weeping in the background, candles gutter and church towers topple as vast naked women rampage about altars, trampling the skeletons of babies never born. Pelling's style hesitates somewhere between stained glass medievalism and modern Cubist techniques. Titles are deliberately outrageous: take *Episcopussy*, for example. This show is intended to leave a sulphurous smell in the air. *The Splitting Image at the Air Gallery*, 32 Dover Street, W1 (0171-409 1255) until May 9

Stretching our tolerance

Intolerance on the world stage is by no means a new thing. Move closer to home though, and you'll find it is just as prevalent. Stewart Conn's new play for Edinburgh's Royal Lyceum Company attempts to explore the length and breadth of both. *Clay Bull* opens in 1990s Edinburgh, a prissy, tight-lipped, blue-rinsed town where we find young Ellen about to be packed off to South Africa lest her crime of having a child out of wedlock offend the delicate sensibilities of her father's well-heeled peers.



Where it all goes horribly wrong, though, is the quite bizarre introduction of an African prophet figure who beams down on to Ellen's front porch from some landscape of the imagination. This alarmingly contemporary sounding figure seems to be there to give Ellen a glimpse of

the netherworld where her dead father stalks in full Masonic regalia. Audacious, yes, but if this device is intended to represent an unfettered spirituality as far away from the Church of Scotland's General Assembly as you can get, it fails because of its cumbersome intrusion into an already awkwardly structured piece. Suspension of disbelief is one thing, quasi-mystical posturing another. On the plus side, Hood leads a solid cast through some pretty uninspiring material, a good deal of which the director Kenny Ireland should have cut. As Ellen's father, Sandy Neilson is cursed with having to speak a turgid stream of local references designed, one presumes, to appeal to the twinset and pearls brigade. Child actor Chris Lynch almost saves the day as the young Gordon, but the rest of the play, like the city it opens and closes in, is all fur coat and nae knickers.

NEIL COOPER

Bravery and beauty



For his Spring Loaded programme, Maliphant presented a modest double bill — a solo and a duet — that delivered far more than it promised. The solo is a notoriously difficult form to carry off successfully, and you have to be either brave or foolhardy to attempt it. Maliphant is not only brave, he is also mesmerising. The 15 minutes of *Shift* race by unmonitored, so compelling is both his choreography and his sheer physical presence.

DEBRA CRAINE

Critical Mass, a duet in three movements for Maliphant and Robert Tannion (who danced with DV8), again features Hull's exemplary lighting design. It highlights the two men, dressed down in drab casual wear and looking like a mirror image of one another.

Maliphant and Tannion begin their close-knit partnership with a breathless seasaw of energy transmitted in piercing, pulsating phrases of dance. The mood changes: the choreography takes on a teasing, paradoxical stance, then a desperate intimacy as the two men wind their bodies around each other like clinging vines. Maliphant's choreography uses the natural laws of gravity to define itself, and recognises a debt to the language of Brazilian martial art and contact improvisation. Occasionally its repetitions jar, but more often the sudden surge of energy exhilarates. And just when you think its vocabulary is finally exhausted, *Critical Mass* draws a line under itself and a most satisfying evening of dance comes to a close.

DEBRA CRAINE

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Razing the old standards

There was a time when any self-respecting jazz festival could present a series of medium-ranked international soloists accompanied by local rhythm sections and allow them to blow their way through a set of standards in which each number had extended solos all round, ending with some breaks for the drummer.



Tony Coe, one of the highly individual stars of this year's Cheltenham Jazz Festival

endless piano and bass solos on every tune, during which Coleman wandered offstage, thinly concealing the tensions between himself and his British rhythm section.

LONDON

EDNA THE SPECTACLE: The Dame is back. New characters are added to include a young Rupert Murdoch. The National Theatre's production of Alan Ayckbourn's play...

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Martin Hargis. Economic and sexual abuse, arrives for one week. Max Stafford-Clark directs...

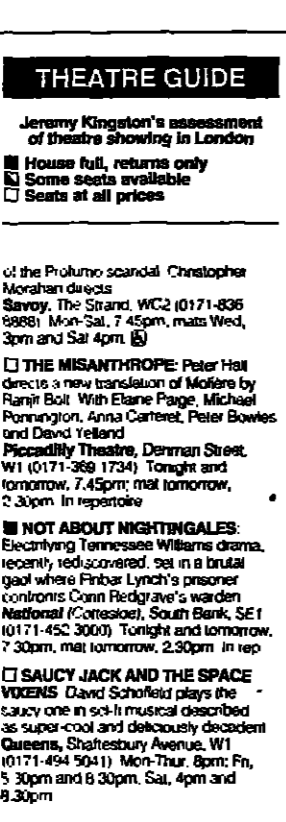
THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingdon's assessment of theatre showing in London. House full, returns only. Seats at all prices.

Northcott Theatre, Stocker Road

MANCHESTER: Topping the list on the evening's 1924 Festival programme is a visit by the Belgian choreographer Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker...

Michael Tilson Thomas conducts at the Barbican



NEW RELEASES

DECONSTRUCTING HARRY (18) A writer's personal and professional life unfolds. Fascinating, funny and unsettling. Woody Allen film...

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where indicated with the symbol (w) on release across the country.

UCI Whiteleys (020 889899)

JUNK MAIL (15) Brachylogically Norwegian black comedy about a downcast postman sucked into a cat's paws. A sizzling debut for director Pål Svendsen...

Standing room only

"CLONE us in a test tube, sell us to the multitude," sang James on their recent hit single Destiny Calling, an acerbic intelligent analysis of the ephemeral nature of pop fame...

POP

British appearance at the Reading Festival was a low-octane affair, the gamine turn of the all-dancing, all-singing Tim Booth subdued by a neck injury that left him in a surgical collar.

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Theatre 0171 314 8800. DANCE OF DEATH. Adapted by Carlo Goldoni.

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Advertisement for The Phantom of the Opera. Her Majesty's Theatre. Now in its 15th Record Breaking Year. Tickets: 0171 373 8141.

Advertisement for Les Misérables. Now in its 13th Record Breaking Year. Tickets: 0171 373 8141.

Advertisement for A Fool and His Money at the Nottingham Playhouse. A new translation of Molière's Le bourgeois gentilhomme. Tickets: 0115 941 9419.

كندا من الأصل

VAT man to swoop on cash dodgers

GARAGE owners and motor traders should be aware of a new trend of unannounced visits by Customs and Excise...

Customs have been concerned for some time over perceived tax leakage from cash businesses such as garage forecourts...

Usually the team consists of two highly experienced staff and their first request is to ask the business to cash up...

If satisfactory answers cannot be given, records may be taken away for a detailed examination...

Mr Lee advises: "It is important for businesses to recognise and record when there are fluctuations in trade..."



The nearest I've got to an offshore account is one that resembles the Titanic!

David Askham finds a music lover who is hitting all the right notes

Pipes dream came true for enterprising teacher

Colin Ross opened his door one day to find a Japanese couple on his front step seeking advice about a set of Northumbrian bagpipes...

Mr Ross is one of a small number of expert Northumbrian pipe-makers. He teaches students how to make the instruments as well as how to tune and play them.

Teaching has been a constant theme throughout his working life. After university in the Fifties, when he studied fine art...

In 1962 he researched local musical instruments, borrowed a set of old Northumbrian pipes, fell in love with them and spent six months painstakingly replicating them...

However, after several years of teaching, culminating in tutoring at a Newcastle teacher training college, he seized the opportunity to make a career change...

In 1978 he was ready to establish his own small business, which he envisaged would fill a niche market in the North Country...

In his leisure time, Mr Ross continued playing with folk groups around the country and found himself being pressed to make Northumbrian pipes for other musicians...

squeezed between the upper arm and body. In addition, the chanter has keys giving the pipes a wider range of scales...

A basic set of pipes comprises bellows, a seven-key chanter and four drones made from local hardwoods or African blackwood, lignum vitae, boxwood, Thailand ebony or snakewood...

The instruments have to look as good as they sound. That is why I use silver, which I have assayed in Edinburgh...

Mr Ross also makes sets of chanters ranging from the basic seven-key chanter to the more elaborate and sophisticated 17-key versions...

Half of Mr Ross's new pipes are exported to markets in the Far East, Australasia, New Mexico and North America.

Meanwhile, a flourishing Northumbrian Pipe Society has 600 members around the world. Mr Ross is both chairman and technical adviser.

Telephone: 0191-252 6585.



Wind power: Colin Ross took redundancy to start his bagpipe firm

Beware the double self-assessment trap

By Rodney Hobson

BUDGET changes are causing some owner-managers to take decisions in haste while others are failing to act quickly...

Some owners miss the best opportunity to sell out while others turn their firms into limited liability companies for no good reason...

The cut in corporation tax to 20 per cent for smaller businesses, compared with the 40 per cent higher rate for income tax...

With an incorporated company, any salary the owner pays himself is subject to PAYE and national insurance...

Owner-managers over the age of 50 are the ones most likely to be affected by changes in capital gains tax (CGT)...

withdrawn over five years from next April, but owners will have to wait for ten years to benefit from the proposed reduced rate of 10 per cent CGT on long-held assets...

Mike Warburton at Grant Thornton, the business and financial advisers, says the full retirement relief from CGT available for the next 11 months could reduce the tax on a £1 million gain to £150,000...

A sale after April 2003 would be even worse, he says. There would be no retirement relief benefit and the tax reduction for having held the assets long-term would still leave a liability of £220,000.

Deloitte & Touche, the accountancy firm, says: "These changes will add complications to an already complex tax. Many entrepreneurs will be worse off in the short term and face very high CGT."



Reynolds: warning for owners

BRIEFINGS section containing several short articles on business topics like NatWest credit card, language barriers, and networking organizations.

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

Business services and financial offers including 'Business for Sale', 'Loans & Investment', and 'Liquidations Receiverships Auctions'.

Discreet Surveillance Equipment advertisement with contact information for Lorraine Electronics.

Communications 2000 advertisement listing international rates for USA, Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, and South Africa.

233MHz Windows '98 PC advertisement featuring a computer monitor and keyboard, with pricing at £699 plus VAT.

Internet advertisement for 'The world's first coin-operated Internet Public Access Terminal'.

'America's #1 Franchise' advertisement for Surface Doctor, a home improvement service.

47 UK Showrooms advertisement for Powerhouse, listing various services and products.

Freephone Time Now! advertisement for Time Computer Systems, offering 0% APR financing.

Vertical text on the far left edge of the page, including names like 'ALYN SH...' and 'NIGEL W...'.

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LAW

DOMINICK DUNNE 43
YORKSHIRE NOTES 49



In front of a worldwide television audience, O.J. Simpson savours the moment as the Los Angeles court finds him not guilty of murder

Fiasco by television?

Has the Simpson trial killed any chance of cameras in the courtroom, asks Peter Carter-Ruck

In advocating the case for more open justice, Lord Alexander of Weedon in his latest work The Voice of the People refers to the promise "at long last" to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into our domestic law.

Act 1974, the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 1976 and the Contempt of Court Act 1981.

education and national interest in the running of the country should be stimulated rather than discouraged...

newspapers, why cannot many able journalists and photographers working for television do the same?

Act 1996. As Lord Rees-Mogg wrote in his article "Private Prejudice and Public Justice" (November 3, 1997): "Nowadays, coram populo effectively means 'in front of the television cameras'."

When incorporated into our law, it will further strengthen the rights of the individual citizen and bring within his or her grasp the power to enforce his or her rights without having to go to the court at Strasbourg.

A typical example of the adverse effect of the latter occurred in November of that year when Shaw Taylor was advised that he could not broadcast on ITV an item intended to trace a minicab driver who drove off with £250,000 left on the back seat by a passenger, because, since

Most witnesses are not likely to be affected by a TV camera set to record the proceedings

Having attended over the past 50 years so many civil actions of many different types, I do not believe that the televising of trials would have the slightest adverse effect on judges, the parties to the proceedings or the witnesses.

Act 1996. As Lord Rees-Mogg wrote in his article "Private Prejudice and Public Justice" (November 3, 1997): "Nowadays, coram populo effectively means 'in front of the television cameras'."

Silence of the lawyers

SOLICITORS have a new friend to lobby for them in the House of Lords. Lord Hunt of Wirral, a senior partner at Beachcroft Stanleys, used his recent maiden speech to express concern that solicitors were not being heard in the Upper House.

After, as he put it, "having to sit silently through a debate in which many learned judges, extremely learned barristers and the noble and learned Lord Chancellor pontificated on what it was like to run a sol-

icitors' office - sadly there was no contribution from any solicitor. I shall ensure that does not happen in future."

necessary experience, according to Lord Lester of Herne Hill, QC. His comments coincide with the election today by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe of the British judge from three candidates put forward by the Government.



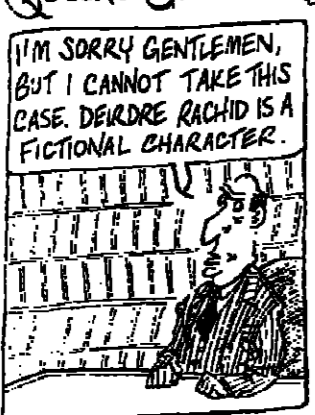
Radio 4's Chambers is returning to the airwaves

Radio return of Chambers

BBC Radio 4 is launching a new series of its satirical sitcom, Chambers. Written by Clive Coleman, a barrister, it stars John Bird as John Fuller-Carp, head of chambers.

Fund run JUDGES and lawyers are turning out for two events to raise money for the 1998 Appeal for the Barristers Benevolent Association: the London Marathon on April 26 and a concert in the Temple Church on May 6.

QUEEN'S COUNSEL



I'M SORRY GENTLEMEN, BUT I CANNOT TAKE THIS CASE. DEVIDRE RACHID IS A FICTIONAL CHARACTER. WE CAN'T SUE THE POLICE FOR WRONGFUL ARREST BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T EXIST.

NOW I'M AFRAID I MUST ASK YOU TO LEAVE MY CHAMBERS AND STOP WASTING MY TIME.

STUART & FRANCIS

Bringing home the human rights

The Government's Human Rights Bill is starting its committee stage in the House of Commons. Excellent though the measure is, there remains room for improvement.

The main defect in the Bill is the Government's insistence that claims of breaches of Convention rights should be made only by a "victim". This is a much narrower test than applies in judicial review proceedings, where complaints may be brought by any person with a "sufficient interest".

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, explained on the second reading of the Bill in the House of Lords last November that the purpose and effect is to "bring human rights home". Remedies will be provided in domestic courts and tribunals for rights that the United Kingdom already recognises under the European Convention on Human Rights.

As Lord Lester of Herne Hill, QC, explained in moving an amendment in the House of Lords, the consequence of the Bill as presently drafted will be different legal tests of standing according to the issues being raised by an applicant in judicial review proceedings. This will lead to costly and time-consuming litigation and it will hinder expert bodies in bringing test cases on important issues of principle.



COUNSEL DAVID PANNICK QC

The Bill sensitively recognises the fundamental importance of Convention rights. It does so by four main provisions. First, primary legislation and subordinate legislation must, so far as possible, be read and applied consistently with Convention rights.

The Government's argument is that a "victim" test of standing applies to a claim under the Convention in Strasbourg. But the criterion applicable to an international procedure is not the appropriate test where rights are conferred in domestic law.

Thirdly, public authorities, which include courts and tribunals, must comply with Convention rights in taking any decisions. Fourthly, a minister of the Crown in charge of a Bill in either House of Parliament must, before second reading, make a statement about the compatibility of the Bill with Convention rights, or explain that the Government nevertheless wishes the House to proceed with the Bill.

The Master of the Rolls, Lord Woolf, has written to the Lord Chancellor expressing his concern about the adoption of a "victim" test. Lord Slynn of Hadley, a law lord with extensive experience of European litigation, supported Lord Lester's amendment and expressed his concern that maintaining a "victim" test would lead to a serious risk that human rights will not be protected in practice.

The Lord Chancellor skilfully secured the passage of the Bill through the House of Lords with only one substantial defeat by the Opposition and backbenchers. That was the unjustified exclusion from the Bill of specified decisions of religious bodies. The House of Commons should remove those amendments. Religious bodies have no basis for concern that the Convention would interfere with decisions on religious grounds on whom they allow to marry in their churches or whom they employ.

There is still time for the Government to think again on this issue. Court time and public money should not be wasted on sterile arguments about whether rights have been brought to the court home.

If, contrary to all informed opinion, the Convention were to apply to such matters, then the United Kingdom would be answerable in Strasbourg. So it is in everybody's interests for such issues, like all others, to be justiciable in domestic courts where our own judges can contribute to the case-law.

The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford. He is the editor, with Lord Lester of Herne Hill, QC, of Human Rights Law, Practice and Procedure. A comprehensive guide to the Human Rights Act and the European Convention to be published by Butterworths in October.

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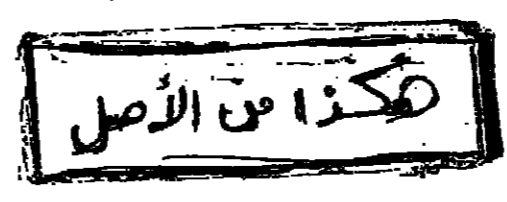
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I haven't received any more details so far.

WE DO



The writer Dominick Dunne tells Victoria McKee why he has covered his last murder trial

'I haven't received any more death threats ... so far'

Dominick Dunne has achieved an unrivalled reputation as a chronicler of murder trials. After the murder of his daughter, the actress Dominique Dunne, the former film-maker forged a new career by reporting on the trial of the man who was her killer for *Vanity Fair*. He has since covered most of the rich and famous murder trials of the past decade. He has written novels, and television mini-series, about several and fictionalised murder trials from the past involving celebrity figures.

But when I caught up with Dunne at his Manhattan penthouse at the end of an exhausting American book tour for his latest work — a novel about the O.J. Simpson trial, *Another City Not My Own* — he told me he had come to the end of his rope where murder trials are concerned and is planning to hang up his "avenging angel" wings.

"It's just murder I'm giving up, though," he confided. "I became too emotionally involved with the O.J. Simpson trial. It nearly destroyed me." That's why he has had to destroy his alter-ego, the writer "Gus Bailey", who has been a regular fixture in all his *romans à clef*.

This book — in which he throws away the "key" and uses everybody's real names — shows how he became obsessed with the O.J. trial for which he moved from New York to Los Angeles to cover. "It may have been because there were echoes of my daughter's case in it," he agrees. Dominique had been the

victim of a man who beat women — as Nicole Brown Simpson seemed to have been.

The fact that his daughter's killer is free and working as a chef continues to gail Dunne, who feels almost as violently about Simpson's freedom.

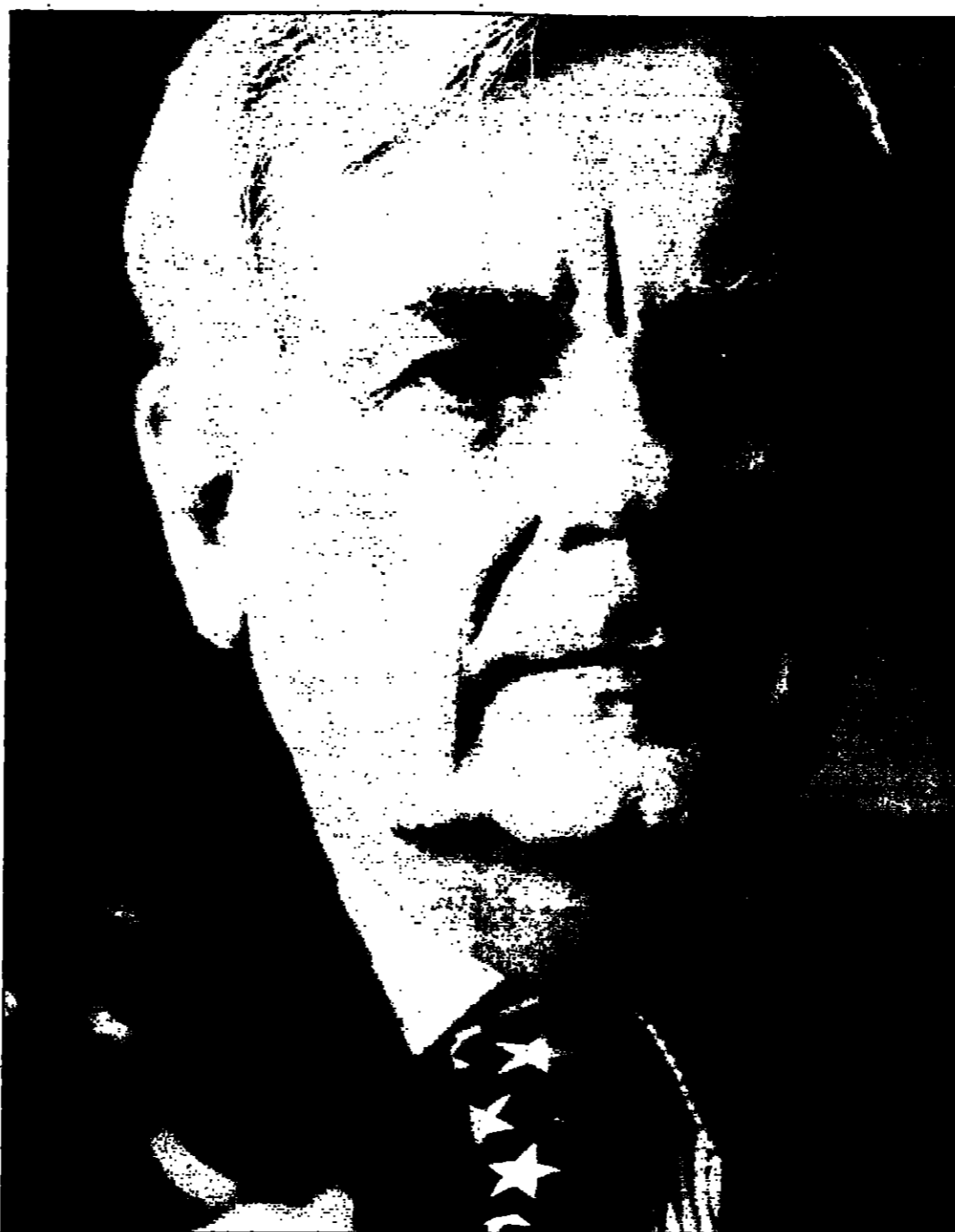
The reason for that freedom, he feels convinced — and states in his book — is "because the African-American jurors won't be welcome back in their neighborhoods if they send their hero to prison. It's as simple as that".

Not afraid to speak his mind, he is no stranger to death threats and felt very vulnerable after the Simpson trial.

Talking in his cosy, chintzy apartment in front of a mantelpiece stiff with invitations to the homes of the rich and famous who fight to have him at their dinner tables even though he bites the hands that feed him, Dunne explained why he had revealed so many "off the record" conversations he had been granted during the trial. (That he's the sort people love to confide in has been the source of his success.)

"I didn't have to say they were 'off the record'," he points out — although, to do him justice, he always does. "But it's all three-year-old news and I just don't care now because that's my last murder trial. I haven't received any more death threats since the book's been out — there's been a great silence — and I hear from a lot of people I've mentioned in the book with, so far, no problems," he told me.

He's the toast of New York and Los Angeles, and still the hottest ticket on the dinner party, as well as



Dominick Dunne, whose daughter was murdered: "The judge was horrified that the guy got just three years"

the literary circuit. Society hostesses beg him to talk about it to entertain their guests. He has chronicled the trials of such figures as William Kennedy Smith and Claus Von Bulow, the Menendez brothers and Simpson, and believes that the rich and powerful must not be allowed to manipulate the legal system.

"When the rich are on trial, if the family can afford to pay a million dollars to Allan Dershowitz, or to F. Lee Bailey or Barry Scheck (as in

the Simpson trial), and the prosecution puts up a bright kid three years out of law school, 99 per cent of the time the million-dollar lawyer's going to win."

It obviously still galls him that in his own daughter's case circumstances were reversed and justice was STILL not done.

"In my daughter's case we were the family with clout and the killer was a poor boy," he concedes. But

what happened, he says, is that every ruling went against the prosecutor. "But I think," he adds, "that the judge was horrified this guy got just a three-year sentence after what he'd done."

His latest book, says the former alcoholic, "has helped me get it all out of my system. The O.J. trial clung to me like a disease — it was like a poison in me. I never want to get that involved in someone else's life again, and I think I've made my points about the justice system."

Ensuring full access to justice

At home on the Internet for the new Civil Justice Council will send the message that it is determined to take a fresh and outward-looking approach to ensuring better access to justice for the public. When Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, recently announced membership of the council be put in place one of the main planks of Lord Woolf's recommendations for reform.

The target implementation date for the new system is only a year away and the council has already held its first meeting. Previous attempts at civil justice reform have lacked an authoritative body

to oversee the effective transition between theory and practice. The council will have a responsibility to ensure that the system is accessible, fair and efficient.

Established under the Civil Protection Act 1997, and chaired by Lord Woolf (the vice-chairman is Sir Richard Scott, head of civil justice), the council will meet four times a year. Its role as an advisory body will be wide-ranging and its influence could be key to the success of the reforms.

It has a broad membership representing consumers, lay advisers, unions, insurers, universities, the Court Service, the Bench, solicitors and the Bar. Part of its focus will be to promote co-ordination of the many strands that deliver the civil justice system and to monitor the impact of the procedural reforms. In keeping with its statutory terms of reference the 22-member council will not be second-guessing the detailed work being done by others drafting the new rules, practice directions and protocols in time for the target date of April 1999.

In the civil justice system of the future (like everywhere else), efficiency will depend on information technology. The council will therefore monitor how IT support for the new procedures (particularly judicial case management) combines with the introduction of the new rules and training for both judiciary and practitioners. Not to be outdone on the IT front and as a

signal of its attitude of openness, the Council is planning its own Website. Roadshows outside London will also help to build contacts and sound out a wide range of views.

Whatever influence the council can bring to bear in the run-up to the civil procedure revolution next April, it should be well-placed after the implementation date to monitor the impact of the reforms on users of the new system. If it finds this to be out of line with its expectations — or if there are signs of reluctance to adopt Lord Woolf's litigation culture change — it will use its influence to push things back on course.

The council's priorities reflect the main issues that will determine how in future civil justice will be more accessible, fair and efficient, whether cases are brought on the fast track or multi-track. Sub-groups will study the crucial questions of court fees as well as the litigation funding methods of conditional fees, legal aid and legal expenses insurance. Other groups will examine the problems of enforcement, the adequacy of information to litigants and (by no means least) alternative dispute resolution. These working groups will not be drawn exclusively from members of the council but will look for help from outside bodies, developing a core group of contributors to help its monitoring function. When necessary it will make proposals for research, the dearth of which has been used as a stick to beat well-intentioned reformers accused of lacking the necessary evidence to support the need for change.

If proof were needed that civil justice will in future have a higher profile and that Lord Woolf's change of culture is already well on the way, this was evident at the first meeting of the council. This new body, representing probably the widest range of civil justice interest groups ever assembled, will ensure that this time the modernisation of the system will really work.

● The author, senior partner of Irwin Mitchell, is a member of the Civil Justice Council.



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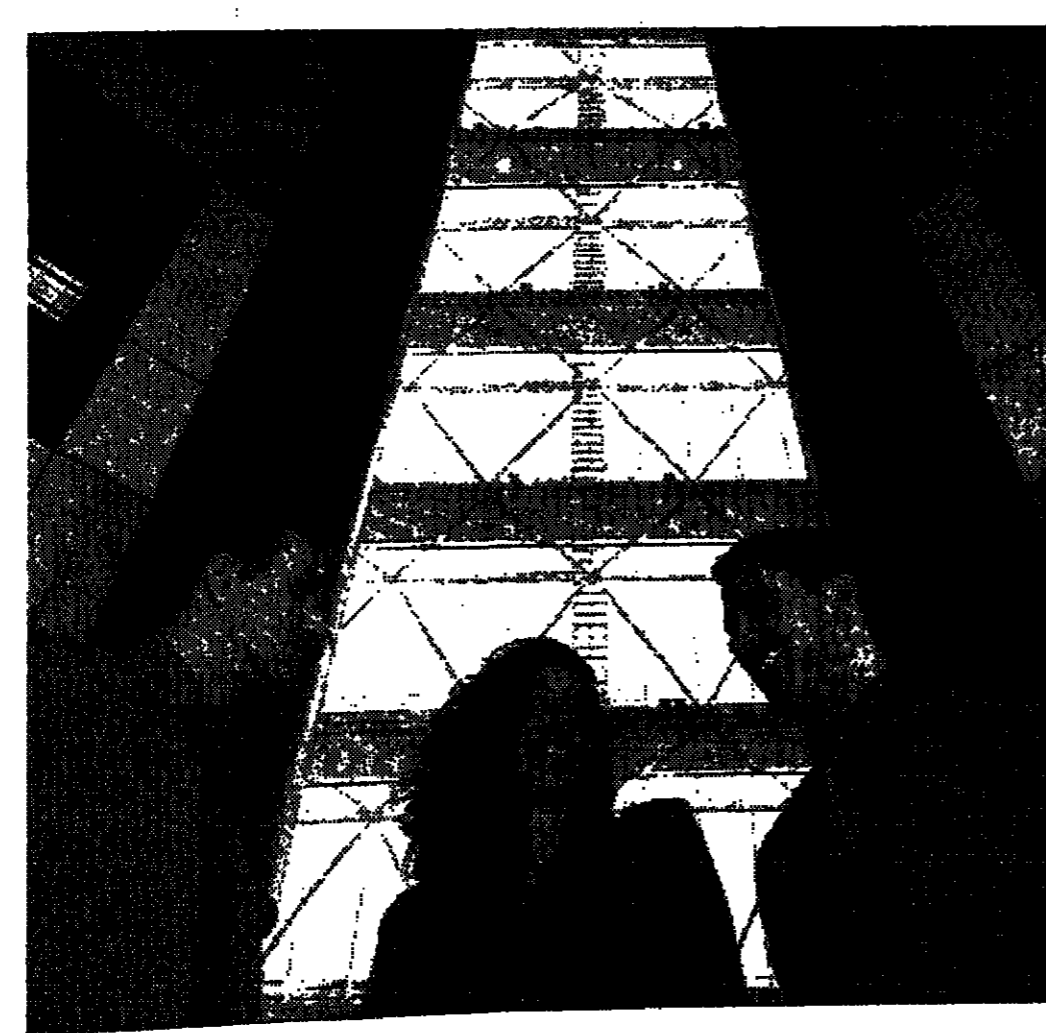
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If you're up to the challenge, we're keen to provide it. So much so that we arrange interviews at your convenience, not ours. And the whole recruitment process will surprise you by its speed. To apply, please send a full cv to Rosie Lynn-Jones, Personnel Manager, Clifford Chance, 200 Aldersgate Street, London EC1A 4JJ. Fax: 0171-282 6596.

More information at <http://www.cliffordchance.com>

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EBS is a global group operating in 29 countries around the world, including Europe, Asia and the US. As the premier broker for interbank spot foreign exchange, EBS provides an electronic system for foreign exchange trading throughout the world's financial centres.

A dynamic and expanding organisation at the cutting edge of international foreign exchange, EBS is seeking a commercial lawyer to join the existing in-house legal team. Based in our offices at Lincoln's Inn Fields, and reporting in to the Head of Legal and Corporate Affairs, you will be responsible for a range of commercial work with a strong international emphasis.

You will be a lawyer with 2-3 years' experience in commercial law gained with a top City practice. In particular you will have sound contract drafting and negotiation skills as well as a good knowledge of company law. Any international exposure, as well as intellectual property or employment law experience, will be a distinct advantage.

You will also be highly motivated in relation to your future career and have the maturity to establish credibility quickly with both internal and external clients.

This is a truly outstanding opportunity to join an innovative and dynamic organisation which offers real career prospects and an exceptional remuneration package.

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Stephen Lacey on 0171 405 6669 (0171 795 8738 evenings/weekends) or write to him at QD In-House Legal, Confidential fax 0171 831 6394.

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37-41 Bedford Row
London
WC1R 4JH

This assignment is being exclusively handled by QD In-House Legal, and any direct or third party applications will be sent to them.

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SOLE EUROPEAN COUNSEL

Seagate Software, Inc., a subsidiary of Seagate Technology, one of the largest data technology companies in the world, is a leading international provider of data backup, data protection, systems and storage management software.

Rapid expansion in European markets has created an exceptional opportunity for an ambitious, dedicated commercial lawyer to act as European Counsel. Operating from our London headquarters and reporting to the Corporate Counsel in the United States, you will be responsible for providing legal services to support the Company's operations in Great Britain and Continental Europe. This will include:

- negotiating, drafting and reviewing commercial transactions, especially software licenses
- advising on intellectual property and employment matters;
- advising on statutory obligations and business law
- corporate finance and company law issues.

You will be a European qualified lawyer with at least 3 years' relevant experience in private practice or in-house with a thorough comprehension of European commercial law and related issues. Fluency in French and/or German is strongly preferred. You must be able to demonstrate a good understanding of and affinity with diverse European cultures and markets, a high class commercial awareness and analytical ability. You will be willing to travel and able to work under pressure.

Seagate Software attracts, develops and nurtures outstanding people. We encourage initiative and create a supportive environment in which to flourish. With excellent professional and international career development, the remuneration package is highly competitive.

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Applications are invited from ambitious lawyers with commercial or IT experience who are seeking a career role within a fast moving, progressive environment. The ability to work autonomously and as part of a team and demonstrate a flexible, approachable manner is essential. Experience of insurance matters would be an advantage.

These opportunities provide excellent quality and variety of work within a friendly team atmosphere. The packages on offer will include a generous basic salary and financial services benefits.

Please contact Elizabeth Williams or Nick Hedley, our exclusively retained consultants at Taylor Root, 179 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4DD. Telephone: 0171 415 2828 Evenings: 0171 394 8014



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1-4 years' pge

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Do you want your career to take off rapidly? Our client, a c.50 partner firm with a substantial and expanding UK and international client base, has achieved considerable recognition in the aviation sector. Providing you with the resources and commitment to reach partnership level the firm seeks in return a highly motivated solicitor with flair and ambition.

Acting for a variety of airlines (chartered and scheduled) you would have an interesting and challenging caseload and be encouraged to deal directly with clients.

Ideally you will already have some knowledge of aviation law, an outward going personality and be keen to play a key role in the development of this flourishing practice. Excellent career prospects and competitive remuneration will be offered.

To find out more about this opportunity contact **Simon Eagan**, in complete confidence on **0171 404 6669** (evenings/weekends: 01252 715302) or write to him, enclosing your career profile at **44/45 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1JB** (Fax: 0171 404 8817)



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An outstanding individual is now required to provide a legal service throughout the Company. Working closely with senior executives, the emphasis of your legal advice will be on IP and IT matters. You must therefore be well versed in the licensing and patenting of software, copyright, "passing off" and trademarks. On the IT side, there will be daily involvement in high value software/hardware contracts, outsourcing agreements, distribution agreements and special projects including PFI and other Public Private Partnership arrangements. Due to the seniority of the role you will be a qualified lawyer with four to eight years' practising experience and at least three years' specialist knowledge of IP/IT law, gained either with a major commercial practice or relevant industry sector. Of high intellect, you will be commercially focused with a track record of adding value to businesses.

In return, you can expect a very competitive salary package including an expensed car and the chance to operate at the cutting edge of a business primed for even greater future success.

For further information please contact **Anthony Gregg** or **David Bennett** at In-House Legal, Grosvenor House, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham B2 5RS. Tel: 0121 643 1895. Fax: 0121 633 0862. E-mail: tony.gregg@hwgroup.com This assignment is being handled exclusively by In-House Legal and all third and direct applications will be forwarded to them.



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CONTRACTS LAWYER

The Wren Insurance Association is an insurance mutual providing professional indemnity cover for architects and multi-disciplinary practices. The Wren is managed by Tindall, Riley and Co., who provide as part of their service a legal review of all contracts for the insureds.

We now require an additional junior lawyer to join the legal team, dealing primarily with non-contentious construction work.

You will probably be recently qualified, not necessarily with a particular emphasis on construction law, but enjoying the detailed study, analysis and drafting of documents. In addition you will have first rate communication skills in order to explain and persuade others of your point of view.

If you believe your background and personality are suited to this role, please send a comprehensive CV to:

Peter Croft, Administration Director, Tindall, Riley and Co., New City Court, 20 St Thomas Street, London SE1 9RR

Contracts Officer

The Wellcome Trust, the largest medical research charity in the UK, is seeking a Contracts Officer to negotiate and administer Awards and contracts for the Trust's Division of Medicine, Society and History.

This is a new and exciting position which requires you to have either a Business or a Law degree and at least two years experience of contract law/contract negotiation and administration, preferably with some of this experience gained within the charity sector. Excellent written, verbal and negotiation skills together with a high level of attention to detail are essential. You should be happy to work on your own initiative and to be capable of independent judgement and action as well as having the ability to work co-operatively alongside other people.

Salary will be on a scale from £23,366 to £30,615 pa plus benefits.

For further information contact Lynne Letts on 0171 611 8563. To apply, please write with your full cv, including a daytime telephone number and the name of two referees to Ms Olivia Ward, The Wellcome Trust, 183 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BE to reach us no later than Friday 8 May 1998.



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For a further discussion in absolute confidence, please contact our retained consultants Sarah Daint, Kate Subbitt or Gareth Querry on 0171 405 6068 (09:00-18:00) or 0202 882222 evenings/weekends, or write to them at QD Legal, Confidential fac: 0171 831 8394.

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PROPERTY To £58,000
One of the most-talked about City law firms is set for another major growth spurt, but there is still time to benefit from being in near the start of this exciting project. Work at the cutting edge of legal practice if you are a commercial property lawyer with 0-4 years' post-qual. Partnership potential a must. Ref: T37855

IN-HOUSE ASSET MANAGEMENT To £130,000
You will play a key business role in the asset management team of this major international merchant bank, the importance of which is reflected in the fantastic salary. Your 3-4 years' post-qual (not all of which needs to be in asset management) needs to have prepared you for the centre of the action. Ref: T48201

EMPLOYMENT To £64,000
This top 10 City firm will not recruit you unless you have what it takes to make it to partner, so employment lawyers with 2-5 years' post-qual are on to a winner here. This is on top of a high quality workload that will mix (mainly) non-contentious and contentious work. Great training just rounds off the deal. Ref: T48302

COMMERCIAL To £38,000
This well-known City law firm is the perfect example of a smaller commercial practice. It offers a commercial lawyer with 0-2 years' post-qual — and ideally French or German language skills — real autonomy and an interesting workload that will include IT. The firm is synonymous with all that is good in law. Ref: T49478

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY To £50,000
What makes this City firm out from its medium-sized competitors is its reputation — formally recognised — as a place where lawyers receive top-notch training and every help and encouragement to reach the top. If you are a commercial property lawyer with 2-4 years' post-qual, this is the perfect first move. Ref: T27008

TAX To £47,000
If you prove you can handle a corporate tax workload from across the practice at this leading mid-sized firm in Holborn, then partnership is very much on the agenda for a lawyer with 0-4 years' post-qual. Add no billing targets and highly competitive pay, and you have the recipe for real job satisfaction. Ref: T37858

CORPORATE To £100,000
The London office of this major US firm has just recruited its first English-qualified corporate lawyer and is now set to expand its capability quickly. The prospects and pay for corporate lawyers with 1-5 years' post-qual who play their part in this will be exceptional, matching the range and quality of work. Ref: T16469

FSM To £70,000
Surveys show London's reputation as one of the two major global centres for financial services work continues to grow, meaning that financial services/regulatory lawyers are in great demand. It also means 1-5 years' qualified lawyers will be offered major incentives to join Top 10 City practices like this one. Ref: T28524

IT To £55,000
You need to be sharp to take this position on the cutting-edge of non-contentious IT work at a Top 20 City firm, which can offer a 4-5 years' qualified lawyer a challenging mix of computer games, entertainment and internet work. Your experience need not be exclusively in IT, but now's the time to specialise. Ref: T13954

PENSIONS To £53,000
This Top 20 City firm offers pension lawyers with 0-5 years' post-qual the combined attraction of a market-leading pensions practice and the benefits of working at a leading City firm. And when this largely stand-alone practice boasts a blue-chip client base of such quality, those benefits can be very impressive. Ref: T44729

PROJECTS To £45,000
Projects and PFI work is a major growth area for many firms right now, but few have the range of clients and work offered by the London office of this major national firm. In an encouraging atmosphere that rewards ability and not seniority, this is a great place to be a junior projects lawyer with 0-2 years' post-qual. Ref: T38600

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Nick Peacock, Stephen Rodway or Gavin Sharpe (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6068 (0171-228 0476 or 0171-354 3078 evenings/weekends) or write to them at QD Legal, Confidential fac: 0171-831 8394.

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PROPERTY LAWYER BERMUDA

We are one of the leading law firms in Bermuda with a progressive approach to the delivery of a quality legal service to clients.

Owing to the continued expansion of the Property Department, an urgent need has arisen for additional solicitors with at least 5 years' post qualification experience gained with a major regional firm, city practice or in-house organisation to take on a broad role dealing with a diverse range of residential, commercial and general property transactions.

Bermuda operates within a totally unregistered conveyancing system and it is essential that you have

- excellent drafting skills including the ability to draft deeds and documents of a novel nature;
- substantial experience of unregistered conveyancing;
- the ability to adapt to the requirements of a foreign jurisdiction;
- a professional approach and good communication skills.

A pleasing and outgoing personality is essential.

Successful applicants will be highly organised, demonstrate the ability to operate on their own initiative and be capable of dealing with an established caseload with the minimum of supervision.

In return, a competitive salary and relocation package will be offered.

Interested candidates should apply with details of experience and qualifications to Jane Foster or Samantha Knowles at Laurence Simons International at the address below. Closing date for all applications will be Tuesday 5th May 1998. Third party applications received by us will be forwarded to Laurence Simons International.

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Craven House, 121 Kingsway, London WC2B 6PA, Tel + 44 (0)171 831 3270, Fax + 44 (0)171 831 4429

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► **Company Commercial Lawyer** 3-5 Years Qualified
You will be an ambitious non-contentious lawyer with 3-5 years relevant corporate and/or finance experience preferably gained with a City firm. You will relish the opportunity to get involved in a wide variety of company commercial work, giving advice ranging from general corporate commercial matters to international operations, structured finance, collective investment schemes and regulatory issues. You will be given your own portfolio of transactions and the position offers an excellent opportunity for responsibility and development.

► **Commercial Litigation Lawyer** 3-5 Years Qualified
A solicitor or barrister with 3-5 years relevant post qualification experience, you will be looking for the opportunity to undertake a challenging commercial caseload and particularly the chance to conduct some of your own advocacy. Areas covered will include a wide range of general commercial litigation along with matters such as corporate insolvency, trust litigation and tracing claims. City experience is preferred and previous advocacy experience would be advantageous.

The nature of the firm and its client base combined with the location of the Cayman Islands itself offers a very attractive working environment. The salaries offered will be very competitive and tax free.

For further information on the above positions contact Jane Foster or Samantha Knowles at Laurence Simons International. Third party or direct applications will be forward to us.

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International Legal Recruitment

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Group Legal Director

West London

Our client is a rapidly expanding industrial services company, providing wide-ranging contract based services to the steel industry and to other heavy industries on a world-wide basis. Part of a USA Fortune 500 Company, the regional headquarters for its operations outside of the Americas are in West London. On conclusion of a recently announced public offer, this business will operate in 26 countries, with over 5,500 employees and over \$500m in revenue.

It now seeks to recruit a Group Legal Director who will be responsible for managing the legal function, providing legal advice and services to the division and ensuring compliance with national and international laws. Reporting to the President of the division and also to the General Counsel of the parent company, the Group Legal Director will serve as a member of the senior management committee. On a daily basis, the

work will include providing legal input on strategic and commercial plans of the division; advising on acquisitions and divestitures; negotiating, drafting, reviewing and analysing contracts; managing external legal advisers, and acting as Company Secretary. There will also be regular travel to the operating divisions.

The successful candidate will be a Solicitor or Barrister with at least ten years' post qualification experience which should include international legal experience. He or she should have energy and commitment, be commercially minded, computer literate and have management experience. Fluency in French or another European language is highly desirable.

The generous remuneration package will include a company car, health insurance and bonus scheme.

For further details, please contact Sonya Rayner, (who is handling this assignment on an exclusive basis) or send her a copy of your CV (or e-mail her at sonyarayner@chambersrecruitment.co.uk).

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Sotheby's is a dynamic global business, with nine auction rooms in Europe and subsidiaries in most European countries. The company is continuing to expand in Europe and Asia and the role will particularly focus on new business development.

The role will consist of a broad range of corporate and commercial matters. The work will have tremendous variety and a strong international flavour.

This is a unique opportunity to enjoy a mixed transactional and advisory role, working in a non-hierarchical high grade team of lawyers. The ideal candidate will have 3-5 years' corporate and commercial experience acquired in a leading law firm. In-house experience will be an advantage. You will have qualified in a civil law jurisdiction or will be familiar with systems of civil law. Working knowledge of French or German and possibly another European language is essential.

For further information in complete confidence please contact our retained consultants, Lisa Owens or Lizzie Orange on 0171 523 3822 (0171 842 5237 evenings/weekends) or write to them at ZMB Industry, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-523 3823. E-mail lisa@zmb.co.uk This assignment is being handled exclusively by ZMB Industry. All direct and third party applications will be forwarded to ZMB Industry.



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Derivatives Negotiation
Leading bank seeks a negotiator, ideally with 1-3 years' exp, to join its expanding derivatives team. Experience in drafting and negotiating a variety of legal documentation, preferably covering a number of products, is essential.
Ref: 39925 Claire Hine

Corporate Finance
Highly-regarded merchant bank requires corporate financiers to advise on M&A, flotations, equity and debt finance, restructurings, takeovers and disposals. You will be committed to moving out of law and have an excellent academic history.
Ref: 29400 Claire Hine

Banking Lawyer
Major European investment bank requires a banking lawyer with 2-3 years' post-qualification experience to join its legal team in the City. A thorough knowledge of banking law is essential including syndicated loan and general security documentation.
Ref: 39238 Claire Hine

Emerging Markets
Prestigious investment bank requires an additional lawyer with 2-4 years' general banking experience. Exposure to emerging markets work would be advantageous (although not essential) but a keen interest in this area is imperative.
Ref: 40050 Claire Hine

Banking

'Too much of a good thing is wonderful'



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In this role, your key responsibilities will include all aspects of employment law and industrial relations with a particular emphasis on non-contentious matters. Experience and interest in current employment law is essential, together with an awareness of commercial and corporate affairs.

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This position supports the team leader in non-contentious banking issues, undertaking primarily transaction based work for lenders and corporate borrowers, as well as developing the team and the client base.

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An additional member is required to join a team dealing with acquisitions and disposals, management buy-outs, joint ventures and general transactional work. The ability to work as part of a team is essential, as is the ability to advise senior management of client companies and help them to achieve their objectives.

For all positions you must have at least two years' post qualification experience, including specialist knowledge and experience of the areas indicated. Self-motivation, proactivity and the ability to be a strong team player are also important, together with the determination to maximise profitable client business.

Please write with CV and salary details, indicating your area of interest to - The Personnel Department, Morgan Bruce Solicitors, Bradley Court, Park Place, Cardiff CF1 3DP. Closing date: 5 May 1998.

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- acted for the funder on a major £100m computer and communications outsourcing contract;
- acted for the lessee on a US\$525m floating storage and offtake unit in North Sea through a UK tax lease combined with project finance - the third such transaction we have been involved in and we are now acting on two further transactions of a similar scale;
- acted for the originator on a US\$100m contract receivables securitisation;
- acted for the agent on a US\$130m structured trade finance transaction.

Because of our success, we need further finance, tax and property lawyers of all kinds, from newly qualified to those aspiring to partnership. We can help you to escape the pigeon holing you may be experiencing at your present firm.

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To find out more, in strict confidence, please contact Andrew Caulfield at ZMB on 0171 523 3838 (01483 828110 evenings/weekends). Alternatively, write to him at ZMB, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171 523 3839. E-mail andyc@zmb.co.uk ZMB, a Zarak Group Company.



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Neighbours — with separate futures

Yorkshire has become England in miniature, complete with divisions and regional antagonisms. Leeds is the sophisticated, cosmopolitan centre which plays host to flourishing financial institutions and international law firms. Sheffield may relish its *Full Monty* status but its lawyers ponder what the future holds for this city in the post-industrial heartland.

Edward Fennell tells a tale of two cities that have long been rivals with different legal markets

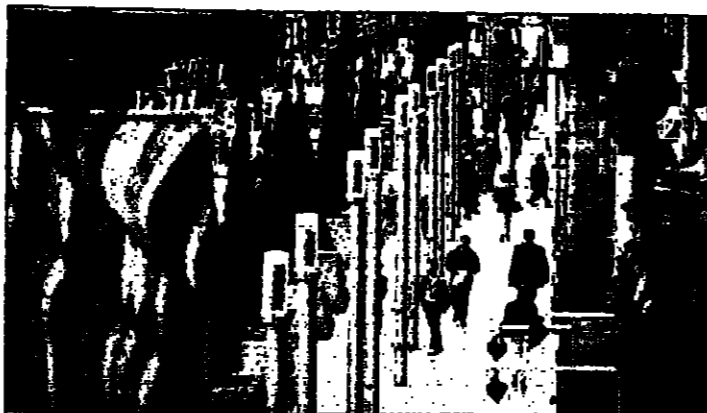
clients see themselves as different culturally from those in Leeds. But will the Sheffield legal market grow? I wouldn't put any money on it. So despite their proximity, they have proved to be the breeding ground of ambitious, expansionist law firms with the self-confidence to challenge the City at its own game. Sheffield firms, meanwhile, are seeking a fresh direction in response to the new popular industries of entertainment, the arts and technology-based communications. They are both proud to be "Yorkshire" — but their futures are looking very different.

With the recent establishment in Leeds of both a Mercantile Court and a branch of Harvey Nichols the contrast between the two cities has become even greater.

From a legal perspective, they are now seen as completely different

The setting-up of the Mercantile Court in the city has given a boost to the local Bar

WHEN the historic and well regarded name of Hepworth & Chadwick disappeared in Leeds after the firm merged with Eversheds, the national law outfit, there were fears that clients would move away. These proved unfounded. Instead, according to David Ansbro, the local managing partner, there was satisfaction that the firm would be part of a large network with ambitious targets. "Our clients operate regionally, nationally and internationally, and they want lawyers who can meet their needs at all those levels," he said. "People are proud of their roots but are primarily interested in the future. There were no problems when the name was dropped."



Shopping in Leeds, where fears about a merger were unfounded

Leeds beginning to rival London

This readiness to accept change came as a surprise to many of those who saw Leeds as being still deeply rooted in its industrial past. But the city has changed dramatically. Almost all its top law firms are now part of national partnerships, so they are used to mixing and matching names — usually with lawyers outside their area. Eversheds was originally a Midlands-based name. Dibb Lupton now has also affixed to it — the result of a merger with a firm in the North West, while Booth & Co, in another northwestern marriage, has recently become Addleshaw Booth & Co. In most cases, it has been the Leeds member that has been the driving force. It has proved an ideal base for the development of a strong regional network. The failure by the top London firms to

cultivate regional connections created a vacuum into which Hammond Suddards, Dibb Lupton and Eversheds were happy to move. They have now all also opened strong London offices and are beginning to look towards Brussels and other international centres. "An international network is fundamental to serving international clients," Mr Ansbro said. "We recently ran a deal from Leeds which involved 20 jurisdictions. We couldn't have done that without our City and overseas offices." The substantial presence of financial institutions has provided

not least from the point of view of members of the local legal professions for whom it is providing increased opportunities for specialisation in commercial and financial law.

Undoubtedly, the local Bar has been given a boost by the arrival of the Mercantile Court. Many law firms still send the most important cases to London, but the opportunity has now come for the local Bar to be strengthened and for work to be kept in Yorkshire. Significantly, Enterprise Chambers of Lincoln's Inn has opened a fully clerked office in Leeds and four of its barristers are now permanently based there.

According to Hugo Groves, a barrister with the set, there are now about 20 barristers specialising in commercial work at the Leeds Bar and there is a growing confidence in the local business community that their work can be handled entirely by Leeds-based lawyers, whether that be commercial transactions or litigation.

Yet it is not just the barrister-solicitor access that has been strengthened in Leeds. The recent arrival of Garretts, as the legal arm of Arthur Andersen, has widened the coalition to include accountants and other professionals. So, while Leeds has advanced in the past five years, further change can be expected.

It will, however, be building on a position of great strength. Aside from the biggest, most complex international work, Leeds can now genuinely claim to be an alternative to London.



The Full Monty: the award-winning film raised the profile of Sheffield but did it make the city a laughing stock?

Steel City must adapt to meet the full challenge of the future

Sheffield strips away old image

WHILE Leeds made strong progress, steadily building its legal base and attracting an increasing volume of quality work, Sheffield has had a much more troublesome passage in the past decade. This has reflected the changes in its manufacturing base: Sheffield may be producing as much steel as ever but the traditional industrial infrastructure has dramatically changed and many local law firms have been struggling to adapt.

One exception to this is Irwin Mitchell. The finest hour of the firm, which is led by Michael Napier, probably came when partner Kevin Robinson acted for the head defendant in the Matrix Churchill "arms to Iraq" case. Diligent document research by Irwin Mitchell lawyers kicked the legs from beneath the prosecution case and led to the former minister Alan Clark's confession that the Government had been aware of Matrix Churchill's exports of machine tools.

Irwin Mitchell's name first came to national prominence, however, in the 1980s through its triumphs in the field of personal injury. It has since enjoyed success on behalf of plaintiffs in cases of industrial accidents and discrimination. Last January, for example, it won the longest-ever UK personal injury case when British Coal was found negligent in failing to protect miners against the inhalation of coal dust. It was also successful recently on behalf of Jane Crouch, a female boxer, in her punch-up with the British Boxing Board of Control, and it

continues to take the lead in innovative areas such as co-ordinating action for families of BSE victims. But while Irwin Mitchell continues to enjoy its traditional strengths in private client work — especially in areas such as employment, medical negligence and personal injury — it is moving into fresh fields. It is now developing its own national network with offices in London, Birmingham and even venturing into Leeds itself. It is also offering a full corporate service in activities such as competition work, intellectual property and construction — fields where, according to Michael Napier, it is benefiting from its reputation in acting for plaintiffs.

Yet while Irwin Mitchell is in a class of its own there are one or two other interesting firms in Sheffield. The development by Nabarro Nathanson of a 'Centre for Industry and the Law' a couple of years ago has been particularly important. Since Nabarro's takeover of British Coal's in-house team, Nabarro Nathanson now concentrates much of its employment, local authority, utilities and environmental work in the Sheffield office. Mike Renger, who heads the

office, is a former Coal Board man, and he says that he enjoys the opportunity to apply the skills developed for the coal industry on behalf of a wider range of clients. With 68 fee earners and 16 partners in Sheffield, Nabarro's impact has been important in stimulating other local rival firms.

One of these is Keeble Hawson, which has just announced its merger, from May 1, with W & A Glossop. Both are longstanding Sheffield firms with Keeble Hawson the third-largest in the city after Irwin Mitchell and Nabarro Nathanson. The forthcoming merger reflects the emerging of those Sheffield-based firms which have realised that they need to change their client base.

According to Jonathan Armstrong, a Keeble Hawson partner, the real growth areas now are in the new industrial fields of information technology, intellectual property, media and the Internet through which Sheffield is endeavouring to "reinvent" itself.

Mr Armstrong says that the creation of the new national centre for pop music, the establishment of the cultural industries quarter and the development of the city as a centre for sports regulatory bodies are all part of the way Sheffield has set itself on a new course.

Local law firms must move with these changes to create a vision that goes beyond the city's recent portrayal on the big screen. The *Full Monty* was fun for some people but it made Sheffield a laughing stock. Its lawyers know they must rise above that image.



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For further information in complete confidence, call Guy Moran or Daniel Richards on 0171 269 2231 or write to them enclosing your CV at Michael Page Legal, Page House, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LN or fax to 0171 405 2936. Any direct or third party applications will be forwarded to Michael Page. e-mail: guymoran@michaelpage.com

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Debt Trading Lawyer
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Ideal candidates will be qualified lawyers with between 1 and 3 years experience from either a City law firm or financial institution. For the Derivatives Lawyer position, derivatives experience would be useful, but of more importance is a general understanding of finance. Applications for the Debt Trading Lawyer position are sought from lawyers with banking experience.

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Applicants quoting reference 98/K056A may obtain further particulars from the Personnel Office, The Queen's University of Belfast, Northern Ireland, BT7 1NN. Tel: (01232) 273246/273044, 273854 (answering machine) or FAX (01232) 324944.

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RACING: PITMAN VOICES CONCERN OVER SAFETY OF GRAND NATIONAL COURSE

Aintree defends ground rules

By CHRIS McGRATH

JENNY PITMAN'S matriarchal role in Aintree mythology was yesterday compromised by the public airing of an apparent scolding for those who staged this year's Martell Grand National. The trainer, who has won the race with Cobribe and Royal Athlete, is reported to have expressed anger about the "dangerous" state of the track. She nonetheless ran one of her own horses, Nahthen Lad, who was pulled up at the eleventh fence - one of 31 of 37 starters who failed to complete the course in gruelling conditions.

had spoken to him at 8am on the morning of the race, but observed that 80 groundstaff worked on the course between that time and the start of racing. Their initial labours had been on the adjacent Midway course. "I think there may be some misunderstanding on the timing," he said. "We have the utmost respect for Jenny, who is extremely knowledgeable and a great supporter of Aintree. Any comments she makes are taken very seriously. If we or anyone else had thought the course unfit, racing would have been cancelled. This is not a decision taken by the racecourse. It is made by stewards on the day."

RICHARD EVANS

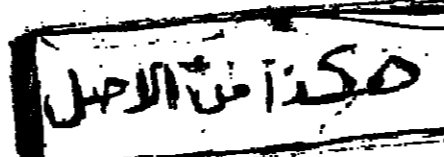
Nap: Tipperary Sunset (4.20 Pontefract) Next best: Big Ben (5.00 Folkestone)

contesting it. She may feel embarrassed to have forced Aintree, the Jockey Club and fellow trainers into the heart-felt assurances they offered yesterday. For the time being, she was unavailable to say - leaving to fester the suggestion that insufficient effort had been made to repair damage to the course after the first two days of the meeting.

On Sunday, Peter Savill confirmed his candidature for the vacancy as chairman of the British Horseracing Board (BHB). The range of support for Savill is as wide as it has been shrewdly orchestrated, leaving the BHB's four Jockey Club nominees ill placed to persist with their interest in the retiring banker, Sir William Purvis.

Mr Pitman was contributing to an official inquiry into how three horses lost their lives in the race, which was won by Earth Summit. All three fell in the early stages, when neither the bigger obstacles - themselves much tamed in recent years - nor exhaustion could yet have been a factor. Charles Barnett, managing director of Aintree, confirmed that Mrs Pitman

Results, page 52



Greenhill Tare Away joins the casualties in this year's Martell Grand National

RACING AHEAD

Robert Wright suggests the best value in the ante-post market

With the ground already testing, stamens will be at a premium in the Whitbread Gold Cup at Sandown Park on Saturday. Doubt surrounds the participation of several of the 26 entrants, including the Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, Cool Dawn, who is expected to be run by his trainer, Peter Nicholls.

Cool Dawn is a run by his trainer, Peter Nicholls. He is able to raise off the ground and is expected to be a strong contender for the title. The ground is expected to be very soft, which will favour the front-runners. The race is expected to be a very close one, with several horses likely to be in the frame.

GUIDE TO THE LEADER PRICES

Table listing various races and their leading prices, including names of horses and trainers.

With the ground already testing, stamens will be at a premium in the Whitbread Gold Cup at Sandown Park on Saturday. Doubt surrounds the participation of several of the 26 entrants, including the Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, Cool Dawn, who is expected to be run by his trainer, Peter Nicholls.

RESULTS

Table of race results for various events, including names of winners and their odds.

SPECIALISTS

Table listing specialists for different types of races, such as sprints and hurdles.

2.15 Mungo Park

Race card for 2.15 Mungo Park, listing horses, jockeys, and trainers.

3.20 BEAST FAIR MAIDEN STAKES

Race card for 3.20 Beast Fair Maiden Stakes, listing horses, jockeys, and trainers.

THUNDERER

Race card for Thunderer, listing horses, jockeys, and trainers.

3.50 BUTTERFLY STAKES

Race card for 3.50 Butterfly Stakes, listing horses, jockeys, and trainers.

2.15 PONTFRACT APPRENTICES HANDICAP

Race card for 2.15 Pontefract Apprentices Handicap, listing horses, jockeys, and trainers.

4.20 48'S HANDICAP (SHOWCASE RACE)

Race card for 4.20 48's Handicap, listing horses, jockeys, and trainers.

2.50 OCKER (nap)

Race card for 2.50 Ocker, listing horses, jockeys, and trainers.

4.50 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP

Race card for 4.50 Levy Board Handicap, listing horses, jockeys, and trainers.

2.50 OCKER (nap)

Race card for 2.50 Ocker, listing horses, jockeys, and trainers.

5.00 FOLKESTONE TOWN LIMITED STAKES

Race card for 5.00 Folkestone Town Limited Stakes, listing horses, jockeys, and trainers.

3.30 BARHAM MAIDEN STAKES

Race card for 3.30 Barham Maiden Stakes, listing horses, jockeys, and trainers.

5.30 TIM FREEMAN HANDICAP

Race card for 5.30 Tim Freeman Handicap, listing horses, jockeys, and trainers.

3.20 BEAST FAIR MAIDEN STAKES

Race card for 3.20 Beast Fair Maiden Stakes, listing horses, jockeys, and trainers.

6.00 BIG BEN

Race card for 6.00 Big Ben, listing horses, jockeys, and trainers.

4.20 48'S HANDICAP (SHOWCASE RACE)

Race card for 4.20 48's Handicap, listing horses, jockeys, and trainers.

6.40 DOVER HANDICAP

Race card for 6.40 Dover Handicap, listing horses, jockeys, and trainers.

4.50 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP

Race card for 4.50 Levy Board Handicap, listing horses, jockeys, and trainers.

7.00 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP

Race card for 7.00 Levy Board Handicap, listing horses, jockeys, and trainers.

STONE advertisement with contact information and details.

4.00 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP advertisement with race details.

2.00 SANDLEY SELLING STAKES advertisement with race details.

2.30 WALKER APPRENTICE MAIDEN STAKES advertisement with race details.

3.00 WALKER APPRENTICE MAIDEN STAKES advertisement with race details.

3.30 BARHAM MAIDEN STAKES advertisement with race details.

6.00 BIG BEN advertisement with race details.

4.00 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP advertisement with race details.

2.40 NEWTON POINT advertisement with race details.

2.40 WEATHERS' ECLIPSE ON-LINE PEDIGREES advertisement with details.

3.10 WORTHINGTON DRAUGHT BITTER advertisement with details.

3.40 DUNRAVEN BOWL HUNTERS CHASE advertisement with details.

5.10 SANDLEY HURDLE advertisement with details.

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Advertisement for a horse, possibly a stallion or broodmare.

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Advertisement for a horse, possibly a stallion or broodmare.

Advertisement for a horse, possibly a stallion or broodmare.

RACELINE advertisement with contact information and details.

Advertisement for SHEEHAN on BRIDGE.

Advertisement for SHEEHAN on BRIDGE.

Advertisement for SHEEHAN on BRIDGE.

Advertisement for SHEEHAN on BRIDGE.

Advertisement for SHEEHAN on BRIDGE.

Advertisement for SHEEHAN on BRIDGE.

Advertisement for SHEEHAN on BRIDGE.

Advertisement for SHEEHAN on BRIDGE.

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Advertisement for KEENE on CHESS.

CRICKET

Glamorgan recover in great style

By PAT GIBSON

BRISTOL (third day of four): Glamorgan (21pts) beat Gloucestershire (4) by 141 runs... found the edge of Dale's bat to give Wright the first of three catches at second slip.

IT WOULD have been easier to understand if Courtney Walsh and Waqar Younis had caused all the mayhem, roaring in from the pavilion end with the wind behind them.

First Glamorgan, who had resumed 198 runs ahead at 106 for one, contrived to lose their last nine wickets for 32 in 13.2 overs, Lewis taking six for 11 in 32 balls to finish with six for 49.

Getting a cheering sight in gloom

CANTERBURY (third day of four): Middlesex have scored 146 for five wickets against Kent... have the afternoon's batting. Langer and Kettleborough, Middlesex's new left-handed opening partnership, shared the first 73 runs before Fulton, crouching close at short leg, snaffled both off the bowling of Fleming.

YESTERDAY'S RACING RESULTS

Table of racing results for Brighton, Hexham, and Nottingham, listing race numbers, winners, and odds.



Hemp turns to see that his middle stump has been laid flat by Harmison. Durham's promising fast bowler

Bold Smith turns tables on Durham

By JACK BAILEY

EDGBASTON (third day of four): Durham, all second-innings wickets in hand, need 219 runs to beat Warwickshire... BEFORE Neil Smith ambled to the wicket and almost mirrored the pace and style of his first-innings attack.

Yorkshire's attack finds right length

By BARNEY SPENDER

HEADINGLEY (third day of four): Somerset, with five second-innings wickets in hand, require 305 runs to beat Yorkshire... CAUTIOUS folk, these Yorkshiremen. As the heavy, grey skies of morning gave way to watery afternoon sunshine, so the members in the pavilion pulled down their hats and hugged their coats.

Essex seek salvation from Law

By IVO TENNANT

WORCESTER (third day of four): Essex, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 41 runs behind Worcestershire... 51 for the eighth wicket — helped, admittedly, by Iltis having pulled a muscle beneath his left armpit.

DeFreitas ensures Cork gets away to good start

By RICHARD HOBSON

DERBY (final day of four): Derbyshire (24pts) beat Nottinghamshire (2) by six wickets... WHEN Derbyshire appointed Dominic Cork as captain they knew that quiet days might be few and far between.

Football

Le Tissier gets his chance to impress

By BRIAN GLANVILLE

HAS Matthew Le Tissier been given one more chance to break into the England World Cup squad? Southampton's gifted maverick has been included in the England B team to play Russia B at Loftus Road this evening.

TEAM

ENGLAND B (goalscorer: S-2): I Walker (Tottenham Hotspur) — S Watson (Newcastle United), G Searns (Ipswich Town), J Carragher (Liverpool), D Williams (Sheff Wed), W Quinn (Sheff Wed), D Anderson (Tottenham Hotspur), N Bamby (Barnet), M Le Tissier (Southampton) — T Sinclair (West Ham United), L Ferdinand (Tottenham Hotspur)

Spurs fans denounce 'pitiful' club

TOTTENHAM Hotspur's depressing season has undoubtedly taken its toll on players and management. Now it seems that the supporters have reached their lowest ebb. Mark Jacob, a spokesman for the Tottenham Action Group, described the club's plight yesterday as "pitiful".

SPORT IN BRIEF

Truett's vision rewarded by triumph... GOLF: Oxford won the inaugural women's University match at Walton Heath yesterday with members of the men's teams acting as their caddies (John Hopkins writes). Oxford won the three morning foursomes 2-1 and then took the six afternoon singles 5-1 to win the match 7-2.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Table of cricket scoreboards for various matches including Worcestershire vs Essex, Gloucestershire vs Derbyshire, and Kent vs Middlesex.

Gloucestershire vs Derbyshire

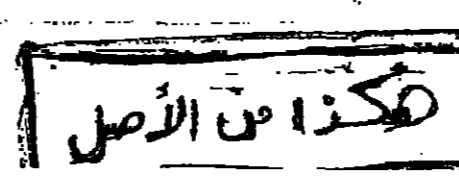
Scoreboard for Gloucestershire vs Derbyshire, showing first and second innings scores and player statistics.

Warwickshire vs Durham

Scoreboard for Warwickshire vs Durham, showing first and second innings scores and player statistics.

Gloucestershire vs Derbyshire

Scoreboard for Gloucestershire vs Derbyshire, showing first and second innings scores and player statistics.



RUGBY UNION: TWO PLACES KEPT OPEN IN TOUR SQUAD

Wainwright wins back captaincy of Scotland

ROB WAINWRIGHT, who lost the captaincy to Gary Armstrong for the Five Nations Championship this season, will lead Scotland on their tour of Australia and Fiji this summer, but the under-strength squad he will command has yet to be finalised.

Jim Telfer, the head coach, and Arthur Hastie, the team manager, yesterday listed only 33 names, rather than the expected 35. They are waiting for two unnamed players, both backs, to prove their fitness in the last weeks of the season.

Two players who have recently arrived in Scotland from the southern hemisphere, but are qualified under the grandparent rule — Gordon Simpson, a back-row forward

By KEVIN FERRIE

Wasps hold key in title race

IT WILL be ironic if Newcastle's hopes of the Allied Dunbar Premiership unravel in North London, considering how many members of their squad once played in the area (David Hands writes). Yesterday, however, they were massaging the wounds left by the loss to Saracens on Sunday before the meeting with Wasps at Loftus Road tomorrow.

Saracens at the top of the first division. However, Saracens suffered a blow yesterday when Francois Pienaar, who limped off with a hamstring injury after 32 minutes on Sunday, declared himself unfit to play for the "next couple of games".

Should Newcastle lose to Wasps, they would have used up the one-match advantage they hold over

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY



Sara Nicolson, standing, and Tangey Eastwood, who led off for Oxford in the foursomes in the inaugural women's University match at Walton Heath yesterday, line up a vital putt at the 18th

ATHLETICS Roba takes Boston title in fine style

IT WAS a hard act to follow, but Fauma Roba made a decent fist of it yesterday when, 30 hours after Tegla Loroupe had set a world record for the women's marathon in Rotterdam, the Olympic champion became the fifth-fastest woman over the distance in history (David Powell writes). Roba, from Ethiopia, completed an African double in the 102nd Boston Marathon after Moses Tanui, from Kenya, had won the men's race.

BADMINTON England forced to take silver

ENGLAND, playing their first final in a European championship for 12 years, had to be content with the silver medal after Denmark, the defending champions, took a winning 3-0 lead in Sofia yesterday (Richard Easton writes). Denmark did not drop a game throughout the tournament.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL: Kick-off 7.30 unless stated. Chelsea v Arsenal. 8 Internationals: Scotland v Russia (at Loftus Road, 7.45). Scotland v Norway (at Tynecastle) 7.45.

FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL EUROPE: Scottish Claymores 10. Rhein Fire 20 (at Murrayfield). BASKETBALL: BUDWEISER CHAMPIONSHIP: Play-offs, third leg: Birmingham Bulls 86 Derby Storm 85 (Bulls win series 2-1). Newcastle Eagles 87 (Eagles win series 2-1). London Leopards 81 Manchester Gladiators 80 (Gladiators win series 2-1).

FOR THE RECORD

CONDO (Durham and District CC) 50.30. York: Durham and District CC 2:56.48. CANTON (Stoke Newington CC) 5:49. Telford: Telford CC 3:04.38. ALASKA Olympic (Pitkin Bridge) July 23 (first): 1. M. Stroll (USA) 1:57.26. 2. T. Steiner (USA) 1:57.26. 3. G. Johnson (USA) 1:57.26. 4. S. A. S. (USA) 1:57.26.

FOR THE RECORD

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Advertisement for Bridgestone tires. The ad features the Bridgestone logo at the top, followed by the slogan 'F1 TIRE GIVES PERFORMANCE THROUGHOUT ITS ENTIRE LIFE.' Below this, it says 'CONSISTENT / HIGH PERFORMANCE' and 'THROUGHOUT ITS ENTIRE LIFE.' At the bottom, it says 'ON THE ROAD' and 'TO PUT YOU IN THE POLE POSITION.' The ad also includes a small image of a Bridgestone Potenza S-02 tire.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES: The Automobile Association Annual General Meeting 1998 and Special General Meeting. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of The Automobile Association will be held at the One Great George Street Conference Centre, Westminster, London SW1P 3AA on Thursday 28 May 1998 at 11.00 am to receive the Report of the Committee and the Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31 December 1997, to elect the Chairman and Officers for the year 1998, and to consider and, if thought fit, to pass resolutions.

0171-782 7344

CHARTERED COMMISSIONER: Notice to the members of the Committee of the Automobile Association. The Committee has the pleasure to announce that it has received the Report of the Committee and the Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31 December 1997, and that it has received the Report of the Committee and the Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31 December 1997, and that it has received the Report of the Committee and the Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31 December 1997.

Advertisement for Bridgestone tires. The ad features the Bridgestone logo at the top, followed by the slogan 'F1 TIRE GIVES PERFORMANCE THROUGHOUT ITS ENTIRE LIFE.' Below this, it says 'CONSISTENT / HIGH PERFORMANCE' and 'THROUGHOUT ITS ENTIRE LIFE.' At the bottom, it says 'ON THE ROAD' and 'TO PUT YOU IN THE POLE POSITION.' The ad also includes a small image of a Bridgestone Potenza S-02 tire.

TENNIS

Becker sets up duel with Rusedski

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT IN MONTE CARLO

GREG RUSEDSKI learnt the identity of his second-round opponent when Boris Becker rallied to beat Jan Siemerink...

Rusedski, seeded No 3 and granted a first-round bye, has failed to master Becker in two previous matches...

Becker, now a lowly No 66 in the world rankings, even suggested that he should no longer be considered a tennis player...

Becker's unusual route to Monte Carlo leaves him vulnerable. Others, such as Petr Korda and Andre Agassi...

still have that 1 per cent. and that's how it remains. Doubtless Rusedski would have appreciated a less exacting reintroduction to a surface unkind to his strengths...

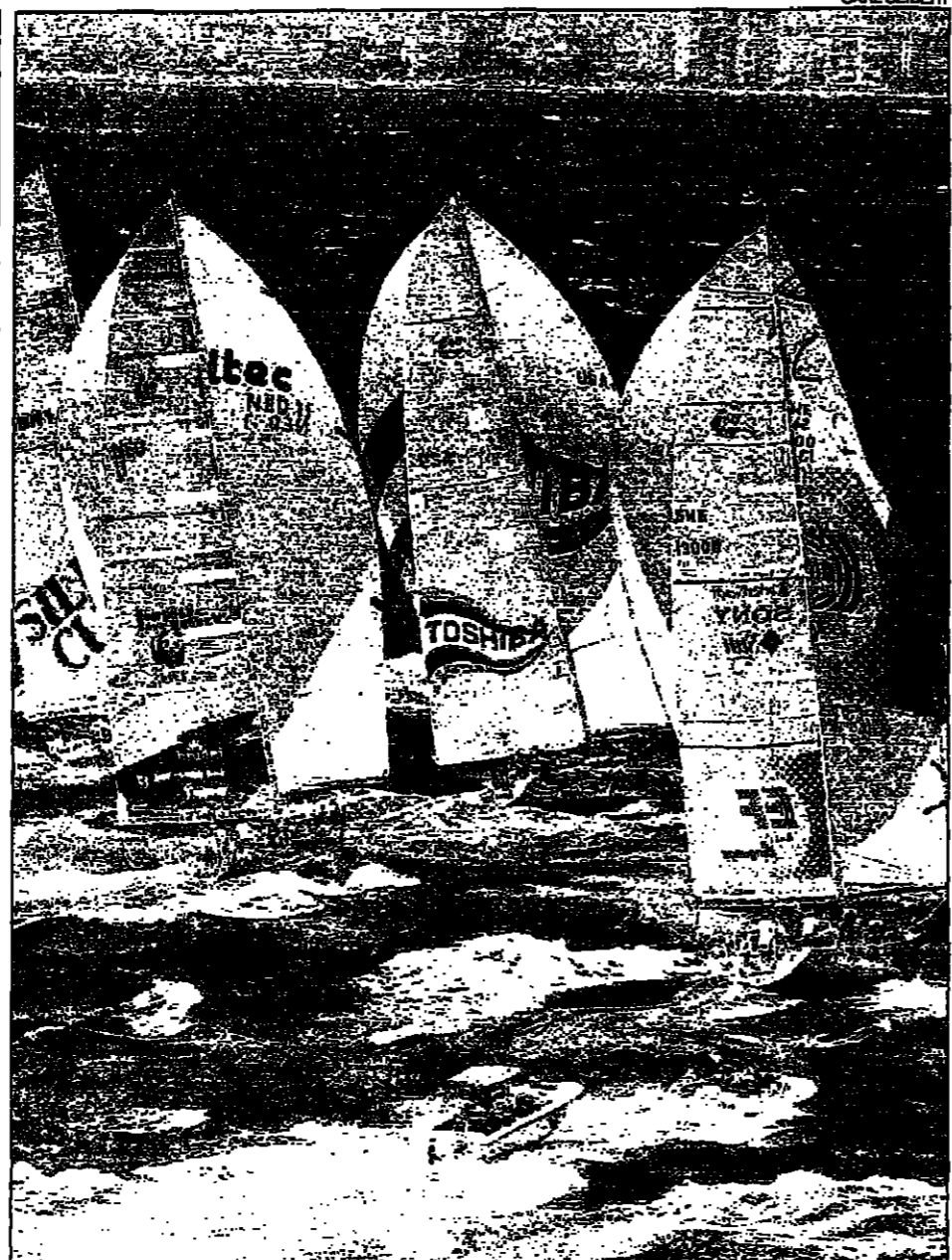
Henman today plays Galo Blanco, who is among 14 Spanish players - six of them seeded - in the main draw...

The advantages of a thorough clay-court preparation were forcefully demonstrated by Nicolas Pietrangeli, the world No 24...



Becker: impressive victory

Results, page 53



BrunelSunergy, second from left, on her way to an unlikely lead in the seventh leg

Double Dutch tactics

WHEN you are a genuine backmarker in yacht racing, you have nothing to lose and the wilder your tactical options...

BY EDWARD GORMAN SAILING CORRESPONDENT

highly competitive fleet, was 20 miles ahead of her nearest pursuer and 60 miles east of the main pack.

Yesterday, the agony for those skippers who regard the Dutch as little more than reckless gamblers intensified as the breeze swung round...

Ordinarily, this would be of little significance. But this is the shortest leg in Whitbread history and the boats have already covered half of the 870 miles to the finish in Balti-

more. Several boats desperately need to win to maintain some sort of a challenge to Paul Cayard on EF Langauge, the race leader...

No doubt Quarrie, who strenuously disagreed with suggestions that the trip round the Falklands had been a fluke, has been heavily involved in the decision-making...

Those chasing the Dutch have divided into two close-knit packs. Inshore, Cayard is covering Swedish Match, the second-placed yacht in the overall rankings...

NEWSFLASH INTELLIGENT LIFEFORM FOUND ON BREAKFAST SHOW.



If you want a radio show that doesn't send you back to sleep in the morning, wake up to the new talk radio breakfast. Every weekday Kirsty Young and Bill Overton bring you up to date with what's going on in the world...

The new talk radio breakfast 1053/1089am

Answers from page 51 PODSNAP (b) A person embodying insular complacency and self-satisfaction...

ROOKKAT (c) The caracal or Persian lynx. Africans for 'red cat'. The brilliant coloured lynx or rookkat - rich red with jet-black car tufts.

OB1 (a) In Nigeria, a native hut. The Igbo name for it, Chima Achebe. Things Fall Apart, 1958: "Where do you sleep with your wife, in your obi or in her own hut?" asked the mediceman.

REVANCHE (b) Requital, revenge. The giving of like for like. Specifically, a nation's policy of securing the return of lost territory.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE 1. Rd7-I Kd7; 2. Rf1 and the black queen is lost.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Lost in a cold, dark place

Assault on the Mind Channel 4, 9.00pm

A two-part documentary on Alzheimer's focuses on the most comprehensive study of a disease which affects 100,000 people a year in Britain...

Timewatch: The Oklahoma Outlaw BBC2, 9.30pm

By the standards of Jesse James or Billy the Kid, Edna McArdy was a minor league outlaw, but his story, in a ghoul-like way, is no less enthralling...

Apartheid Did Not Die ITV, 10.40pm

For his fiftieth television documentary John Pilger goes to South Africa and in a typically combative report suggests that while apartheid based on race may have ended it continues by other means...



Man of the match: Hornby (BBC1, 10.50pm)

to control most of the land and industrial wealth. He accuses the Mandela Government of breaking its promises and setting for a form of free market capitalism that has allowed the rich to get even richer...

OmniBus: Man of the Match BBC1, 10.50pm

The new novel by Nick Hornby is the occasion for a profile of a young British writer who has come so far in so short a time that he could sell the rights for £1.5 million even before the book was published...

RADIO CHOICE

The Choice Radio 4, 9.00am

One of the more common modern complaints is about the use of mobile telephones on trains. But this programme at least offers people annoyed by these devices the prospect that they may be overhearing one end of a considerable drama...

Sound Stories: Musical Dynasties Radio 3, 11.00am

One of the dynasties in this series presented by Richard Baker have been religious, at least not in a primary sense, but today the programme profiles Charles Wesley and his son Samuel...

RADIO 1

6.30am Chris Moyles 12.00 Jo Whiteley Includes 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Dave Pearce 6.30 Steve Lamacq The Evening Session 8.30 Digital Update with Rachel Reynolds and Tom Blinn 8.40 John Peel Includes The 60 Foot Dolls in session 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Charlie Jordan 4.00 Cive Warren

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Throver 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Alan Freeman: The Greatest Six 8.00 The Big Top 9.00 Paul Lewis: Paul Lewis hosts a tribute to Melba 10.00 King 10.40 Around Whicker's World 12.30 Richard Ainsworth 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 Midday with Mel 2.00pm Rascal on Five 4.00 Nelson Mandela with Julian Worricker 7.00 News Extra 7.30 The Tuesday Match. Coverage of tonight's action, introduced by Mark Pougatch 10.00 Late Night Live with Nick Robinson 1.00am All Night with Rhod Sharp 5.00 Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

7.00am Chris Evans 10.00 Russ Williams 1.00pm Paul Coyte 4.00 Robin Jarvis 7.30 Ray Cole 10.00 Mark Forster 2.00am Celine Dion 5.00 Jeremy Clark

TALK RADIO

6.30am Kirsty Young with Bill Overton 8.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Loraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Anna Rastum 9.00 James White 1.00am Ian Collins 5.00 The Early Show

WORLD SERVICE

7.00am World News 7.15 Insight 7.30 Negotiators 8.00 World News 8.15 Off The Shelf 8.30 Pop Science 9.00 News; (648 only) News in German 9.10 Pause for Thought 9.15 Concert Hall 10.00 World News 10.05 Literature File. Brave New World 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 Newsweek 11.30 On Screen 12.00 Newsweek 12.30pm Negotiators 1.00 News (648 only) News in German 1.05 World Business Report 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Health Matters 1.45 Sports Roundup 2.00 Newsweek 3.00 World News 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Miltchack Hill List 4.00 World News 4.05 Sports Roundup 4.15 Westway 4.30 The Greenfield Collector; (648 only) News in German 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Britain Today 6.00 World News 6.15 Insight 6.30 Soundbytes; (648 only) News in German 6.45 Sports Roundup 7.00 Newsweek 7.30 One Planet 8.00 World News 8.01 Outlook 8.25 Pause for Thought 8.30 Megamix 9.00 Newsweek 10.00 World News 10.05 World Business Report 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 Meridian Live 11.00 Newsweek 11.30 Insight 11.45 Sports Roundup 12.00 World News 12.05am Outlook 12.30 Megamix 1.00 Newsweek 1.30 The Farming World 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 Newsweek 2.30 Discovery 3.00 Newsday 3.30 Meridian Live 4.00 World News 4.05 World Business Report 4.15 Sports Roundup 4.30 The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Breakfast with Bekki. Nick Bekki presents music for the morning 8.00 Kirsty Kelly. Includes the Record of the Week and a recipe for British braised beef 12.00 Luncifonia megasix. Jane Jones introduces listeners to classic music 2.00pm Concerto. Krommer (Obse Concerto in F) 3.00 Jamie Croft. Includes travel, sport and business news Plus Afternoon Romance and Continuous Classics 6.30 Newsnight. Arts issues and news updates, with John Brunning 7.00 Smooth Classics Sweet. John Brunning introduces classic music 9.00 Evening Concert Kabalevsky (Overture, Cols Braugnon), Shostakovich (Symphony No 8 in C minor) 11.00 Mann at Night. Music through to the early hours with Alan Mann 2.00am Concerto (I) 3.00 Mark Griffiths

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Petros Tsilivary 5.00 Masterworks, with Peter Hootchey 10.30 The World Service: Classical Music with Gheorghiu 11.00 Sound Stories: Musical Dynasties. See Choice 12.00 Composer of the Week: Alexander Scriabin 1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert: French Chamber Music. The ensemble L'Esprit explores the connections between French chamber and Italian madrigals of the early Renaissance (I) 2.00 The BBC Orchestra. BBC Symphony Orchestra under Andrew Davis and Peter Altschuler, with Timothy Brown, horn, Eva Urbanova, soprano, Catherine Wyn-Rogers, contralto, Denes Gulyas, tenor, Alexander Arismov, baritone, Wayne Marshall, bassoon. BBC Symphony Chorus. Tippett (Birthday Suite for Prince Charles); Strauss (Hom Concerto No 1); Vaughan Williams (Symphony No 6); Jandacek (Glagolitic Mass) 4.00 Holmes, last Burnside introduces folk-song settings by Mahler, recorded last month in the Wigmore Hall, London. Joan Rodgers, soprano, Gerald Finley, baritone, Julius Drake, piano (I) 4.45 Music Matters, with Tommy Pearson 5.00 In Tune, with Humphrey Carpenter 7.30 Performance on 3. A piano recital by Vladimir Ouchnikov, live from the Turner Sims Concert Hall, Southampton. Chopin (Nocturnes in D flat; in B flat minor; Ballade No 2 in F); Liszt (Un sospiro); Maghinis (Waltz No 1) 8.10 Longer Contemporary Poems. Samuel West reads Spring Chiffonia: Exposure, Insensibility and Strange Meeting by Wilfred Owen 8.30 Concert, part two. Chopin (Waltzes in B major, in E minor); Liszt (Piano Sonata No 3 in G minor) 9.35 Postscript: Private View. Nicholas Ward-Jackson talks to Gillian Wearing about life after the Turner Prize. Recorded on the streets of London. Wearing talks about her ongoing fascination with the city's public spaces and private lives 10.00 BBC Symphony Orchestra, under Matthias Bamert. Gerhard (Symphony No 1: Epithalamion) 10.45 Night Waves. Richard Coles considers the place of poetry in contemporary culture 11.30 Jazz Notes. Digby Fairweather introduces the second of three excerpts from a concert given last year at the Forum, Bath, by the Dave Brubeck Quartet. The concert includes: Three to Get Ready. Unsquare Dance and Take Five. Dave Brubeck, piano, Bill Smith, clarinet, Jack Stb, bass, Randy Jones, drums 12.00 Composers of the Week: Weber (I) 1.00am Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

6.00am Today, with Sue MacGregor and James Naughtie. Includes 6.55, 7.55 Weather 7.25, 8.25 Sports News 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.25 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament 9.00 The Choice, with Michael Buerk. See Choice 9.30 Sleeths: Country Pursuits. A look at the work of a wildlife investigator as he pursues the men who kill badgers (3/5) 9.45 (FM) Serial: My Affair with Christianity. Rabbi Lionel Blue reads from his spiritual autobiography 9.45 (LW) Daily Service 10.00 News: Woman's Hour, with Jenni Murray. Includes Postcards: Spring Tide by Jonathan Holloway (2/5) 11.00 News; Call of the Wild. David Attenborough looks at musically in animals (3/4) 11.30 Audio Diaries: A Home for Heidi, by Kay Storheim. A couple decide to adopt a veal calf to complete their family (3/5) 12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast 12.00 (FM) News; You and Yours 12.57pm Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.30 Paul Oakenfold. Tommy Pearson presents the quiz in which musicians from Britain's leading orchestras compete against each other 2.00 News: The Archers (I) 2.15 Afternoon Play: Jud Is a Dad, by John Goodwin. When a 12-year-old boy's father dies, he advertises in the local paper for a new one. With Ben Marshall, Maureen O'Grady and Stephen Clifhlow 3.00 News: The Exchange: (0171) 580 4444. Call Robin Lustig with your views on topical issues 3.30 Out with the Dog: The Professor Goes to the Park. A retired professor takes his amorous spout for a stroll 3.45 Black Walls, by Lu Xin Wu, translated by Alice Childs, read by Paul Courtenay (2/4)

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3, FM 92.2-92.4. RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.6. LW 198. WORLD SERVICE, MW 699, 909. LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO, MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McManera.

So unhappy, it's no wonder he looks drawn

Where Wallace and Gromit, The Simpsons and King of the Hill have led...

is a pretty snappy trick for a show which made its debut only last night...

advises you not to. Eric would behave differently if only he could...

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

Joe Joseph was away for his weekly £70 benefit money on lottery tickets...

woman in Harrogate who fringes away her weekly £70 benefit money on lottery tickets...

they were gassed there—to see the place, it is very painful...

BBC1 TV schedule including 6.00am Business Breakfast, 9.00 Change That, 10.25 Style Challenge, 10.30 Can't Cook, 10.55 The Really Useful Show, 11.35 The General, 12.00 News, 12.05pm The Entertainment Game, 12.35 Wipeout, 1.00 News, 1.30 Regional News, 1.40 The Weather Show, 1.45 Neighbours, 2.10 Lion Country, 2.35 Snooker, 3.30 Ruffert, 5.35 Neighbours, 6.00 News, 6.30 Regional News, 7.00 Holiday, 7.30 EastEnders, 8.00 Children's Hospital, 8.30 Wildlife on One, 9.00 News, 9.30 One Foot in the Grave, 10.00 Crimewatch, 10.50 Snooker, 11.35 World Book Day.

BBC2 TV schedule including 6.10am Classical Sculpture and the Enlightenment, 7.00 Teletubbies, 9.25 The Morning, 10.10 This Morning, 12.15pm Regional News, 12.30 News, 1.00 Shortland Street, 1.15 Zog Zap, 1.30 Regional News, 1.40 The Weather Show, 1.45 Neighbours, 2.10 Lion Country, 2.35 Snooker, 3.30 Ruffert, 5.35 Neighbours, 6.00 News, 6.30 Regional News, 7.00 Holiday, 7.30 EastEnders, 8.00 Children's Hospital, 8.30 Wildlife on One, 9.00 News, 9.30 One Foot in the Grave, 10.00 Crimewatch, 10.50 Snooker, 11.35 World Book Day.

HTV TV schedule including 6.00am GMTV, 9.25 This Morning, 9.30 Vanessa, 10.10 This Morning, 12.15pm Regional News, 12.30 News, 1.00 Shortland Street, 1.15 Zog Zap, 1.30 Regional News, 1.40 The Weather Show, 1.45 Neighbours, 2.10 Lion Country, 2.35 Snooker, 3.30 Ruffert, 5.35 Neighbours, 6.00 News, 6.30 Regional News, 7.00 Holiday, 7.30 EastEnders, 8.00 Children's Hospital, 8.30 Wildlife on One, 9.00 News, 9.30 One Foot in the Grave, 10.00 Crimewatch, 10.50 Snooker, 11.35 World Book Day.

CENTRAL TV schedule including 1.00pm A Country Practice, 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show, 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street, 6.25-7.00 Central News, 7.30-8.00 Heart of the Country, 11.40 Renegade, 12.35pm Breakaways, 1.45 FILM: Maid to Order, 1.45 Central Jobfinder, 5.20 Asian Eye.

WESTCOUNTRY TV schedule including 12.15pm Westcountry News, 12.27-12.30 Illuminations, 1.00 Emmerdale, 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show, 5.10-5.40 Home and Away, 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live, 7.30-8.00 A Place in My Heart, 11.40 Charlie Grace.

CHANNEL 4 TV schedule including 6.00am Sesame Street, 7.00 The Big Breakfast, 9.00 Song Without End, 9.00pm News, 11.25 Tebaldo's Alas, 11.30 Powerhouse, 12.00 Sesame Street, 1.00 Dream of Jeanne, 1.00 Baby Baby, 1.45 Alive and Kicking, 1.45 FILM: Kicking, 3.30 Collectors' Lot, 4.00-4.30 Late Lunch, 7.00 Channel 4 News, 7.55 Coming Out, 8.00 Classic Trains, 8.30 Brookside, 8.30 The Sweeney, 9.00 The Muppet Show, 9.00 The Muppet Show, 9.00 The Muppet Show.

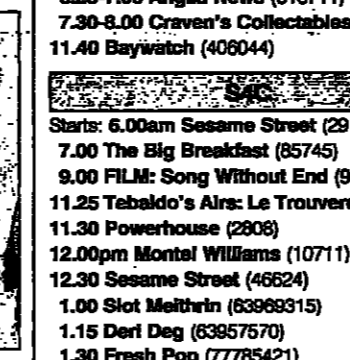
CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE TV schedule including 6.00am 5 News Early, 7.00 WorldWide, 7.30 Minkahke, 8.00-8.30 House, 8.30-9.00 Depeche Mode, 9.00-9.30 Sesame Street, 10.30 Sunset Beach, 12.00-12.30 News, 1.30-2.00 Family Affairs, 3.30-4.00 Sons and Daughters, 5.30-6.00 The Bold and the Beautiful, 6.00-6.30 Burke's Law, 6.30-7.00 The Young and the Restless, 7.30-8.00 The Bold and the Beautiful, 8.30-9.00 The Young and the Restless, 9.00-9.30 The Bold and the Beautiful, 9.30-10.00 The Young and the Restless, 10.30-11.00 The Bold and the Beautiful, 11.30-12.00 The Young and the Restless.



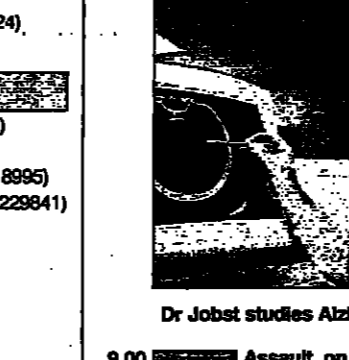
Mandela and Pledger (10.40pm)



Apartheid Did Not Die For



Dr Jobst studies Alzheimer's (9pm)



Julie Bradbury presents (11.40pm)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

Extensive list of satellite and cable channels including BBC1, BBC2, HTV, CENTRAL, CHANNEL 4, CHANNEL 5, SKY 1, SKY MOVIES, SKY SPORTS 1, SKY SPORTS 2, SKY SPORTS 3, EUROSPORT, UK GOLD, SKY BOX OFFICE 2, SKY BOX OFFICE 3, SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1, SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2.



Karl Malden and Steve McQueen in The Cincinnati Kid (TNT, 9pm)

CARTOON NETWORK and NICKELODEON TV schedules including 6.00am The Simpsons, 6.30am The Simpsons, 7.00am The Simpsons, 7.30am The Simpsons, 8.00am The Simpsons, 8.30am The Simpsons, 9.00am The Simpsons, 9.30am The Simpsons, 10.00am The Simpsons, 10.30am The Simpsons, 11.00am The Simpsons, 11.30am The Simpsons, 12.00pm The Simpsons.

HOME & LEISURE, DISCOVERY, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, TRAVEL CHANNEL, PARAMOUNT COMEDY TV schedules including 6.00pm The Simpsons, 6.30pm The Simpsons, 7.00pm The Simpsons, 7.30pm The Simpsons, 8.00pm The Simpsons, 8.30pm The Simpsons, 9.00pm The Simpsons, 9.30pm The Simpsons, 10.00pm The Simpsons, 10.30pm The Simpsons, 11.00pm The Simpsons, 11.30pm The Simpsons.

THE HISTORY CHANNEL, CARLTON FOOD (CABLE), LIVING, ZEE TV TV schedules including 6.00pm The Simpsons, 6.30pm The Simpsons, 7.00pm The Simpsons, 7.30pm The Simpsons, 8.00pm The Simpsons, 8.30pm The Simpsons, 9.00pm The Simpsons, 9.30pm The Simpsons, 10.00pm The Simpsons, 10.30pm The Simpsons, 11.00pm The Simpsons, 11.30pm The Simpsons.



RUGBY UNION 53
Wainwright regains Scotland captaincy for summer tour

SPORT

TUESDAY APRIL 21 1998

TENNIS 54
Battling Becker sets up duel with Rusedski



England coach confirms that team has sought unorthodox help

Hoddle opens up in good faith

BY OLIVER HOLT
 FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

GLENN HODDLE last night attempted to silence the whispering campaign that has threatened to undermine England's World Cup preparations when he boldly brought the contentious issue of his use of a faith healer to solve the injury problems of his players into the open.

The role of Eileen Drewery, the mystic who helped to save the England manager's own playing career several years ago, had been kept very much in the background until now, and there had been suggestions that many of the "less spiritual" members of the squad had become alarmed at the pressure being placed upon them to consult her.

Against an apposite background of continuing injury problems, notably to Paul Gascoigne and Jamie Redknapp, Hoddle gambled by choosing to confront the issue head on at Bisham Abbey yesterday.

Hoddle admitted that more than three quarters of the squad had been to visit Drewery in the past 18 months and that she had now moved into the team hotel at Burnham Beeches as the squad prepared for the international against Portugal at Wembley tomorrow night.

Parts of the press conference bordered on the bizarre. When Hoddle was asked how the healing process worked, he smiled benignly. "You are asking the wrong person there," he said, looking up at the ceiling. "You'd better ask somebody up there."

He said the move to bring Drewery into the England camp was a way of "saving on expenses", because so many of the squad had taken to visiting her. She will accompany the team for its four remaining matches before the World Cup campaign starts in June, but there are no plans as yet for her to travel to France.

Predictably, hoots of laughter followed Hoddle's retreating figure as he left for the team hotel last night. He does not deserve to be derided for his use of Drewery because, as he said repeatedly, it is only closed minds that would deny the efficacy of something of which they have no experience.



Safe in his hands: David Seaman will make his return as England goalkeeper against Portugal tomorrow after missing the past two internationals

because of their reluctance to share Hoddle's almost missionary enthusiasm for Drewery.

"There is a lot of stuff that we are working on at this moment in time when it comes to prevention of injuries," Hoddle said. "We have been using a healer for 18 months and she has now come into the hotel and that is another option, an alternative treatment that we have had going. We are doing everything possible to get them fit for the day when the squad has to be announced on June 2."

"Three quarters of the lads have seen her over the last 18 months. It is nothing new. It's saving expenses by her coming to us. She's a healer. Physically and mentally, she

can help out. It is catching up with the times and people have been doing this sort of thing for many years."

"Many, many players have been to see her off their own bat in between internationals, that is for sure. What I want to state to people is that I have never made a player go to her. I can suggest it. Now, I see three quarters of them going back to see her in between internationals."

"It is difficult to answer what her success rate is because there is no set reference. She can work hand in hand with advanced medical science. If you cut your finger now, what happens to it within four or five days? It heals. So there is a mechanism in your body of healing and

you can trigger that off. It is as simple as that."

"I don't know if players understand what she is doing. If you have got an open mind, that healing process can be triggered off by a healer. It is another thing that will benefit the players and give us the best possible chance of going across to France and doing well. It goes hand in hand with the physios and the masseurs."

"If you ridicule it, then you have got a closed mind. She saved two players' careers when I was in charge at Swindon. Keep your minds open. Go and see her yourself. You can call her whatever you want. Some people call me a manager, some people call me a coach, some people call me a lot worse."

Last night, Drewery must have been working overtime. Gascoigne is almost certain to miss the match with Portugal with an ankle and knee problems. Ian Wright is still struggling with injuries that have kept him out of the Arsenal side for three months.

Wright, at least, is more than happy to follow Hoddle's lead. "I have been going to faith healers for years," he said. "I have been seeing Eileen for eight or nine months and she has helped me to be positive. It means a lot to me and I feel that people mock it and take the mickey out of it. She is very good, very wise. I think she is blessed. I just like being around her."

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Davis finds role model in a Master

Phil Yates sees snooker's elder statesman on familiar territory

THE spectacle of Jack Nicklaus defying the ageing process at the recent Masters golf championship at Augusta was an inspiration to many, not least Steve Davis, another evergreen campaigner whose appetite for competition remains impossible to assuage.

"Watching Nicklaus at Augusta was fantastic," Davis said after his 10-6 victory over Simon Bedford in the first round of the Embassy world championship yesterday. "I'd love to be regarded as his equivalent in snooker."

"I can't carry on competing at the top level for as long as him, but I'd like to think I'm still going to be around, doing something in the game, for a while yet. The six-times world champion is 40, 18 years the junior of Nicklaus but still the oldest competitor chasing the world title at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield."

Davis found himself 6-5 down to Bedford, who had negotiated nine qualifying rounds in order to secure his debut in a televised match and, at that point anyway, looked capable of bridging an immense gulf in experience to cause a huge upset. Yet, by keeping the exchanges tight, as only he can, Davis survived the Crucible's version of Amen Corner to win the next five frames.

"No matter how many times you've been to this place before, the first round always produces the most pan-stricken snooker you've ever played," Davis said. "The words April and Sheffield strike fear into the heart, but it's still marvellous to be here. Regardless of the experience you've gathered down the years, you go out there and feel as if you're using someone else's arm."

By prevailing, Davis is sure to spend a nineteenth consecutive season among the top 16 in the world rankings, the longest continuous occupation of that elite group. He had previously shared the distinction with Dennis Taylor, a member of the top 16 from 1976 to 1994.

It is a record that recognises remarkable longevity, but Davis ruled out the possibility of emulating Fred Davis (no relation), who reached the

semi-finals of the championship in 1978 at the age of 64. "The circuit is much too competitive to even contemplate that these days," he said.

His next opponent will be Mark Williams, the Benson and Hedges Masters champion, whose overwhelming emotion on progressing through the first round was one of relief. Williams, who defeated Stephen Hendry 10-9 on a re-spotted black in a gripping Masters final at Wembley two months ago, led 9-1 against Quinten Hann, the first Australian to participate in the final stages of the event since Eddie Charlton in 1992, and seemed to be on his way through.

However, Hann drew level at 9-9 and led 5-0 late in the deciding frame. Then he missed a risky red to a middle



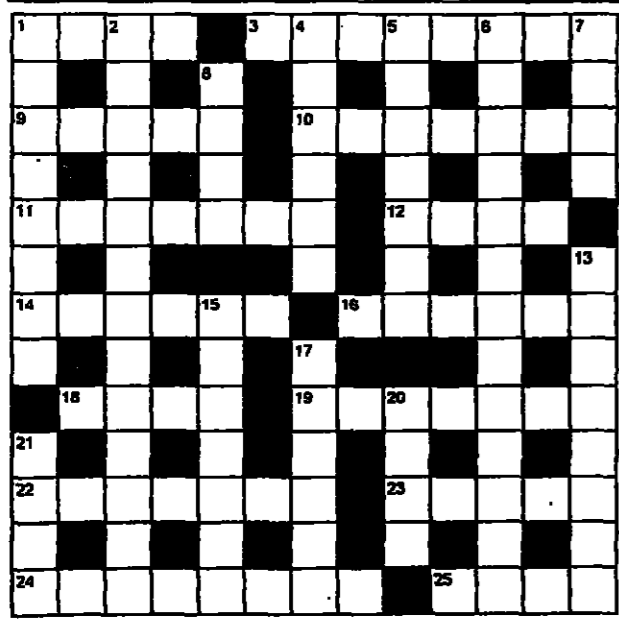
Davis: pressure

pocket and Williams, in three separate scoring visits, eventually scraped a 10-9 victory on the pink.

Peter Lines, of Leeds, emerged as front-runner for the £19,000 prize available to the player who compiles the highest break by constructing a positionally flawless 141 total clearance — but that effort failed to prevent him entering the concluding session against John Parrott, the 1991 champion, this morning facing a 6-3 deficit.

David Gray, who, like Lines, was making his first appearance at the Crucible, also fashioned a total clearance, 140, against Alan McManus. Even so, Gray also found himself 6-3 adrift after the opening session.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1385

ACROSS
 1 London entertainment district (4)
 3 Absorbent; wholly underwearer (8)
 9 Push on, forward (5)
 10 — Monroe (7)
 11 Hamlet died in his arms (7)
 12 Wide-mouth pitcher (4)
 14 Sudden (6)
 16 Slowly simmered (6)
 18 Well-known actor (4)
 19 Determine, declare (7)
 22 Three kings, one 'wicked' (7)
 23 Russian buckwheat pancake (5)
 24 Noise-reducer (in car, gun) (8)
 25 Slithering fit (4)

DOWN
 1 Shaven job (8)
 2 Too ready to complain (13)
 4 Wealth (as a god) (6)
 5 A pledge; serious (7)
 6 Twenty-fifth anniversary for couple (6, 7)
 7 Take formal meal (4)
 8 Dull; a place to live (4)
 13 Sticky substance (8)
 15 Be relevant (7)
 17 Deal with; touch (6)
 20 Employment; may be for the boys (4)
 21 Rainbow goddess; part of eye (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1384
 ACROSS: 1 Sales pitch 9 Expired 10 Demur 11 Arum
 12 Cassette 14 Clever 15 Banter 18 Turgeniev 20 Bind
 22 Actor 23 Bullion 24 Toothpaste
 DOWN: 2 Airy 3 Endear 4 Pedestal 5 Temp 6 Horse-trading 7 Rescindant 8 Spruce 13 Research 16 Twirl 17 Serbia 19 Ratio 21 Sil

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Adams makes successful start to captain's role

HOVE (final day of four):
 Sussex (20pts) beat Lancashire (7) by two wickets

By SIMON WILDS

SUSSEX, for whom finishing bottom of the Britannic Assurance county championship was only part of their miserable season last year, have finally enjoyed some luck — and plenty of it. They had had the worst of their game with Lancashire when rain broke off their first innings, but the deal that the captains struck yesterday gave them a generous chance to walk away with a win, which, after much drama, they finally did.

Few would have backed them to be the first side to record a victory in the championship and such instant success would have been more than Chris Adams dared hope for. Brought in as captain on a large and well-publicised salary, he was under pressure, whether he admitted it or not.

He may well look to the skies with relief. The rain that brought about Sussex's chase to score 260 off what transpired to be 88 overs suddenly returned when they were only 12 away from their target and with three wickets in hand — only to stop as abruptly, allowing time for two more overs. Twelve had remained when the rain came.

Moore and Lewry scammed six off the first from Martin, but, off the third ball of the final over, with four wanted, Lewry was bowled by Keedy, who was frustrating Sussex by purveying his left-arm spin from over the wicket. Kirtley relieved the tension by coolly sweeping his first ball to the fine-line boundary to secure Sussex's first win at their Hove headquarters for 22 months. There was even a

rainbow to usher in their little crock of gold.

Adams played his part. His brisk 39 gave his side their initial impetus and although Peirce, Taylor and Rao all failed to establish themselves, Wasim Khan, the other newcomer, dropped anchor in a way few batsmen at the club managed last year. His three-hour 40 paved the way for Martin-Jenkins and Keith Newell to share a century stand together when conditions had eased. Khan and Adams held firm when the ball swung extravagantly.

Nevertheless, Sussex's young sixth-wicket pair performed exceptionally well. Martin-Jenkins, 22, played effectively for a career-best 63 in only his fifth championship match and it was his positive approach that put his side in the driving seat: when he was

out, they needed 33 from 16 overs. His opportunities have been limited by studies at Durham University — he disappears for his final term tomorrow — but he showed here that he has a future.

Even so, Sussex led a charmed life. Their running provided alarms throughout the day and Lancashire's catching could have been better. Had Khan been held off the second ball after lunch when he was still in the twenties, the outcome might have been different. Adams cannot be so carried away that he will not be grateful to see Bevan arrive next week.

Lancashire, who had to risk losing to gain a chance of winning, were further handicapped. Fairbrother left the field after gashing his hand taking the slip catch that removed Peirce and Austin also departed when he collided in the field with Fairbrother's replacement, Green, and gashed his right knee. Newell and Martin-Jenkins were 64 runs into their 121-run stand at the time and they, like everyone else, were finding Austin hard to get away. The Lancashire all-rounder expects to be out of action for a week.

There was no time for Sussex to taste champagne as they were back on the field within an hour, preparing under lights for this evening's day-night match. In any case, they would be wise to be cautious. Last year, they had a good first match, but it did not last. Yesterday, they were top of the table for only 30 minutes before being overtaken by Derbyshire and Glamorgan.

SCOREBOARD

LANCASHIRE: First Innings 266 (A. Flintoff 88, W. K. Heagg 58)

SUSSEX: First Innings 75 for 4 dec

Second Innings	
N. T. Wood not out	32
M. A. Atherton not out	33
Extras (lb 1, nb 2)	3
Total (no wkts dec)	68
BOWLING: Adams 4-0-36-0; Rao 3-0-31-0	
Sussex: First Innings 75 for 4 dec	
Second Innings	
W. G. Khan c Lloyd b Keedy	40
M. T. E. Peirce c Fairbrother b Martin-J	1
*O. J. Adams c Flintoff b Cheppie	63
N. R. Taylor c Lloyd b Austin	16
R. K. Rao c Lloyd b Martin	6
K. Newell b Keedy	52
R. S. C. Martin b Keedy	25
19 Moore not out	20
J. D. Lewry b Keedy	2
R. J. Kirtley not out	4
Extras (lb 7, nb 10)	17
Total (8 wickets)	260

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-63, 3-82, 4-88, 5-121, 6-227, 7-248, 8-256.

SCORING: Martin 25-6-61-2; Austin 18-2-57-1; Cheppie 15-1-66-1; Flintoff 4-1-12-0; Keedy 15.4-2-58-4.

Umpires: M. J. Kitchin and D. R. Shepherd.

Eubank advised to retire

By SRIKUMAR SEN
 BOXING CORRESPONDENT

CHRIS EUBANK has been advised by Ronnie Davies, his former trainer, to retire from the ring. Davies, a close friend and adviser of Eubank when he held the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) super-middleweight title, thought Eubank took too much punishment from Carl Thompson, the WBO cruiserweight champion, in Manchester on Saturday.

Davies said yesterday: "Chris put up a marvellously brave performance but he took a lot of punishment and I think it best he retires now. I don't want to see him go on and get hurt unnecessarily. I want people to remember him as a great fighter. It upset me deeply to see him hammered by a bigger man. It was a great performance but not good for his health."

Eubank was allowed home from the Manchester Royal Infirmary yesterday and sounded like a man willing to continue. Suggesting that a rematch was "in the pipeline", he said: "A winner never quits and a quitter never wins. I believe I did enough with the knockdown, but the judges didn't feel that way, so you just go on."

John Morris, the secretary of the British Boxing Board of Control, said: "I hope he will talk to his friends and us before he decides what to do." Richie Woodhall, the World Boxing Council super-middleweight champion, will receive £375,000 for the first defence of his title against Vincenzo Nardiello, of Italy. The purse bid was won by Don King, the American promoter.

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